



C & D

CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST

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A Heavy Damper on Spending

FOUR PURCHASE-TAX LEVELS FROM NOW ON

INCREASES in purchase tax, selective employment tax, and the taxes on petrol, wines and spirits, tobacco and road fund licences, were announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Budget on March 19. The employer's share of redundancy payments is increased. No change is made in the standard rate of income tax or in corporation tax.

The Chancellor said he aimed to cut purchasing power by 2 per cent.

The new rates are expected to bring in £923 million annually and £775 m. in the current year. The power to use the purchase tax regulator is being renewed for another year. A provision in the Finance Bill will enable sugar for industrial purposes to be relieved of the sugar surcharge.

Increased rates of purchase tax took effect on March 20. All goods previously taxed at 11 per cent. (for example vacuum flasks) are now taxable at 12½ per cent. Goods taxed at 16½ per cent. are now at 20 per cent. [these include barley sugar, fruit drinks, etc.]. Goods previously taxed at 33½ per cent. are now taxable either at 33½ per cent. or at 50 per cent. as described below.

DRUGS AND MEDICINES (group 33), are taxable at 33½ per cent. (on the wholesale value) unless specifically exempted (see *C. & D. Diary and Year Book*, p. 264).

For group 31 (TOILET REQUISITES) the 50 per cent. rate applies to all goods chargeable under the heading, except the following which are chargeable at 33½ per cent:—

Brushes (including bath, clothes, eyebrow, hair, hat, nail and shaving brushes);

Combs (including dust and nit combs, eyebrow combs and animal toilet combs);

Dental sticks and toothpicks;

Dry shavers, whether hand or electrically operated, and heads;

Hair clippers, hand operated;

Mirrors, handbag or toilet;

Nail scissors, e.g. scissors with curved blades or with striations or hatchings on the blades; nail nippers not exceeding 3½ inches in length; skin nippers, corn knives other than those having metal handles, other toilet knives;

Razors (including corn razors and corn planes); razor blades; razor combs; razor strops; razor sharpeners;

Sponges (real or artificial) capable of toilet use; loofahs.

For group 32 the 50 per cent. rate also applies to all goods within the scope of group 32 (a) and (b), except the following, which are chargeable at 33½ per cent:—

(i) All soaps and soap substitutes shown as chargeable under Note 3 on pp. 89-90 of Notice No. 78 (November 1966). [Hard soap, etc., for household cleansers].

(ii) Baby dusting powders medicated or perfumed, presented for sale

solely as baby dusting powders (other than dusting powders of the B.P.C. and current B.N.F. for which no toilet claims are made and which are within the scope of group 33).

(iii) Dentifrices, eye lotions, mouth washes and antiseptics; *unperfumed alleviating preparations*, including calamine lotions (other than calamine lotions of the B.P., B.P.C., and the current B.N.F., which are within the scope of group 33) and *unperfumed barrier creams*. (The 50 per cent. rate applies to all perfumed alleviating preparations and perfumed barrier creams.)

(iv) Shaving soaps and creams, all kinds of cleansing shampoos for personal or animal use (but hair tinting, toning, etc. preparations are chargeable at 50 per cent. under group 30 (a)).

Group 30 (a) (b): Hairdressing goods, waving and curling outfits now taxed at 50 per cent.

Group 24: photographic cameras and enlargers; parts and accessories; unexposed sensitised photographic paper, cloth, plates and film — now attract the highest rate of 50 per cent.

With effect from March 20, previously exempted cinematograph, film-strip and slide projectors, their parts and accessories, projection screens not exceeding 35 sq. ft. in area, slide viewers and slide containers (except viewers and containers for use with slides exceeding 3 in. in width) are taxable under an amended group 24 of the schedule, attracting 50 per cent. tax. In consequence, the exemption in group 14(2) for electric filament lamps suitable only for use in projectors is now withdrawn. The excise duty on ethyl alcohol has been raised by

21s. 6d. per proof gall. The new rate is £17 4s. 3d.

COUNCIL GUESTS: Guests of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society recently, here shown with the president (Mr. Allen Aldington) and vice-president (Mr. A. Howells) were Lord Auckland, Madame Leclerc, Miss Elizabeth Ackroyd (director of the Consumer Council), Lord Champion of Pontypridd, and Professor M. Leclerc (Faculté de Pharmacie, Paris).



Plan "Nonsensical"

OBJECTIONS TO EXEMPTION SCHEME

GOVERNMENT plans to provide patients exempt from prescription charges with an embossed card to be presented to the chemist with a prescription form were nonsensical, said Mr. M. M. McNeill (secretary, Pharmaceutical General Council (Scotland)) recently. Scottish chemists he felt would prefer the interim scheme covering free prescriptions to be made permanent. Both schemes had been announced in a Commons written reply by the Minister of Health (see *C. & D.*, March 9, p. 205). Objections to the embossed-card scheme had been raised when representatives of the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee (Scotland), the Pharmaceutical Society and the Central N.H.S. (Chemist Contractors) Committee met the Minister before the announcement. Objections included the difficulty in matching personal particulars on cards with those on prescriptions; the problem of patients arriving at the pharmacy without card or money, especially with urgent prescriptions; possible confusion arising over patients with the same names—e.g., father and son; and patients having to hand over their exemption cards in public to pharmacy staff. It was also pointed out that ink from the imprinting machine might interfere with the legibility of the prescription before the dispenser had read it. Mr. McNeill said the executive of the Pharmaceutical General Council (Scotland)—were 'absolutely opposed' to the embossed-card system.

Statutory Committee

CASES TO BE CONSIDERED IN APRIL

THE Statutory Committee of the Pharmaceutical Society is meeting in London on April 4 to consider information and evidence received by the Committee from which it appears that three bodies corporate and authorised sellers of poisons have been convicted for offences under the Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933; and that a member of the Society has been convicted for offences contrary to the Poisons Rules, 1966. The Committee will also be considering an application for restoration to the Register of a former member whose name was removed for non-payment of fees, concerning whom information has been received that he was convicted under the Larceny Act, 1916, and who may have been guilty of misconduct while still on the Register of Pharmaceutical Chemists. The Committee will also reopen two inquiries previously adjourned, the first into the conviction of a member of the Society for offences under the Offences Against the Persons Act, 1861, and the second into the conviction of a member of the Society for offences under the Larceny Act, 1916.

Hoists and Lifts

DRAFT STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

THE statutory draft of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises (Hoists and Lifts) Regulations published during October 1967 (see *C. & D.*, October 21, 1967, p. 373) has been withdrawn and

a new draft issued (H.M. Stationery Office, price one shilling). Amendments have been made to regulations 3(1) and (2) and 6(1) of the earlier draft. Objections to the new draft should be sent to the Minister of Labour before March 27, stating the specific grounds of objection and the changes asked for. The main effect of the alterations is to bring the proposed regulations fully into line with the safeguards provided for lifts in factories. The changes are necessary because many lifts serve both offices and factories and it would cause endless confusion if different legal requirements applied to the same lift when it was at different floors of a building.

Dickson Appeal

HOUSE OF LORDS HEARING OPENS

THE case of Dickson v. Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain came before the appellate committee of the House of Lords on March 18. With Lord Reid, who presided, were Lords Upjohn, Morris of Borth-y-gest, Hodson and Wilberforce. Mr. Rodney Bax, Q.C., opened the appeal on behalf of the Society. After reviewing the earlier proceedings, he went on to deal with the points upon which the appeal was founded before directing the committee's attention to previous cases in support of his argument. The Society's case was expected to be completed by March 20. The respondent will then address the committee.

Foot and Mouth

COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY

THE Committee of Inquiry on Foot-and-mouth Disease (chairmanship: the Duke of Northumberland) held its first meeting on March 14. Organisations and others wishing to submit evidence on any matters within the Committee's terms of reference are asked to do so before May 31, to Mr. J. N. Jotcham (secretary of the committee), 10 Russell Square, London, W.C.1 (telephone 01-580 2901).

IRISH NEWS

THE REPUBLIC

"Buy Irish" Displays

PRIZES AWARDED TO CHEMISTS

SPEAKING at the presentation of prizes in a "Buy Irish" chemists' window display competition, sponsored

by Leo Laboratories, Ltd., in Dublin recently, Mr. John McMahon (director general, National Development Association) said that over 100 community pharmacists from Dublin city and county had taken part. The pharmaceutical industry in the country, he said, now employed over 3,000 persons, against 1,800 in 1960. It was most encouraging to see the growth of an Irish pharmaceutical industry that could meet competition not only on the home market but throughout the world. First prize (£25), was won by Mrs. M. Davis, 34 Fairview Strand; second (£10) by Drumcondra Pharmacy, 149 Lower Drumcondra Road; and consolation prizes (£5 each) by Sean B. O'Brien, Fortfield Park, Terenure; T. Murray, St. Agnes' Road, Crumlin and Dargan's Chemist, 45a Home Farm Road.

IRISH BREVITIES

THE REPUBLIC

MORE than twenty third-year pharmacy students leave Dublin on a week's study tour of Holland at Easter. As on previous occasions the students will visit pharmaceutical industrial plants and professional institutions in order to become more acquainted with pharmaceutical practice on the Continent.

The annual Irish pharmaceutical pilgrimage to Lourdes leaves Dublin airport on August 1 and returns on August 9. Cost per person in three-bedroom is £57; in double room £59, in single room £61 10s. Details may be had from the Secretaries, 69 Palmerston Road, Dublin, 6. Deposit is £3 (balance in one instalment before June 1 or in two equal instalments on June 1 and July 1).

THE NORTH

THE Northern Ireland Local Pharmaceutical Committee is compiling a new list of chemists who wish to close on the non-statutory bank holidays Whit Monday and the first Monday in August or on the spring and late summer bank holidays. The list will be forwarded to the General Health Services Board with a request for permission to close each year. Notifications must be received by the Committee by April 1. Chemists wishing to apply after that date will have to apply direct to the Board.

The annual conference of the Ulster Chemists' Association is being held in the Great Northern hotel, Rostrevor, co. Down, October 11-13.



MINISTER AT INDUSTRY DINNER: The Minister for Health (Mr. S. Flanagan) (centre) chatting with Mr. E. J. Dover (chairman); Mrs. J. F. O'Grady; Mrs. Flanagan and Mr. J. F. O'Grady (president) at the annual dinner of the Pharmaceutical and Allied Industries Association.

NEWS IN BRIEF

THE Home Secretary has withdrawn from John Petro, B.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.B., B.Chir., c/o Miss J. Windibank, 7 Callow Street, London, S.W.3, his authorisation to possess and supply drugs and other substances to which the Dangerous Drugs Regulations apply.

THE 1968 list of products approved for use by farmers and growers under the Agricultural Chemicals Approval Scheme is now available free of charge from the divisional and main offices of the Agricultural Departments in Scotland, Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

A HUSBAND-and-wife team from India, Professor P. Dalal and Dr. P. M. Shah, are to spend a year at the department of haematology, Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, studying, with the aid of a grant from the Wellcome Trust, anticoagulant therapy.

A RECOMMENDED code of practice is set out in "Radiosterilisation of Medical Products" published by the International Atomic Energy Authority, Vienna (H.M. Stationery Office, price 70s. 8d.). The 458-p. report contains the proceedings of a symposium on the subject held in June 1967 and of a 1966 panel meeting on the code.

SEVEN members of the Chemists' Action Group have been nominated for the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society Election that is being held in May. They are Messrs, Stanley Blum, London, W.11; R. C. B. Jones, Theydon Bois, Essex; A. D. Vaughan, London, S.W.16; I. H. Williams, London, S.W.16; C. R. Thewlis, Middlesbrough, Yorks; M. E. Millward, Enfield, and W. W. Jones, Penygroes, Caernarvons.

IN the Weights and Measures (Amendment) Regulations, 1968, and Weights and Measures (Local Standards; Limits of Error) (Amendment) Regulations, 1968, the Board of Trade prescribes limits of error for the four small metric weights that were added to the list of those that may be lawfully used for trade by the Weights and Measures (Additional Metric Weights) Order, 1968 (S.I., 1968, No. 320). The weights concerned are 4 gm., 3 gm., 400 mgm. and 300 mgm.

AN endeavour is being made by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, a body set up by the Food and Agricultural Organisation and World Health Organisation, to arrive at world standards of food quality, hygiene, labelling, additives and pesticide residues that can be adopted by governments in their national legislation. At the end of the Commission's present session a United Kingdom chairman takes over. He is Mr. J. H. V. Davies, an assistant secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

SPORT

GOLF

EDINBURGH CHEMISTS' GOLF CLUB. Officers for the 1968 season have been elected as follows. — *Captain*, J. H. H. Groat; *Vice-captain*, C. F. Ireland; *Treasurer*, C. P. Reid; *Assistant Secretary*, J. Linton; *Secretary*, J. Ferguson, 22 Hillhouse Road, Edinburgh, 4. (Telephone: DEA 3602).

TOPICAL REFLECTIONS

By Xrayser

By No Other Name

In a short paragraph at the end of last week's column I said that the continuing controversy over the labelling of medicines seemed to be no nearer an agreed solution. In that I am now shown to be wrong, for it appears, from a report on p. 230, that the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society has accepted, with reluctance it is true, the view of the medical profession on the matter. Complete accord on all sides seems to be not yet in sight, for we are informed that the Central National Health Service (Chemist Contractors) Committee is seeking the views of Local Pharmaceutical Committees on the subject. The central body, it seems, has been loath to agree to the automatic labelling of containers, putting forward a variety of reasons for not agreeing to the proposals. The situation is not without interest, and the famous Jenkin would, I feel sure, have found it engrossing. Is the question a professional one? If so, it would appear to come within the orbit of the Pharmaceutical Society, and the decision would be theirs and theirs alone. On the other hand, the matter is one which for the moment affects only the official forms issued under the auspices of the National Health Service, and the pharmaceutical body concerned with N.H.S. has expressed its views as to the manner in which the instruction is to be given. That, I think, it has every right to do, for it is concerned with the practical details of the application of the decision rather than, I should have thought, with the professional principles. There is a need for agreed action between the two bodies so that pharmacy may speak with one voice. The Society's Council considers that the principles should apply to all dispensing, National Health and private. Obviously the latter is no concern of the contractors' committee, yet it must be taken into account. So large a part of today's dispensing is N.H.S. that there is a danger of its being regarded as all there is. But professional opinion must come from the Society and the Council must make it its business to see that that position is clearly understood.

Reformation

Automatic labelling with the name of the drug, presumably from a date to be laid down, assumes that all doctors are aware of the complete reversal of previously accepted practice and that on them lies the onus of stating clearly that there shall be no disclosure of the identity of the prescribed preparation. Omission to do so will mean naming. Those who have not used the letters "N.P."—and there are many in my experience—have, for one reason or another, not wanted disclosure. It is to be hoped that the position, when the change comes, will be made perfectly clear to them for, again in my experience, they are not given to observance of the full requirements of the present form. Occasion might also be taken to point out that detailed directions as to dosage and frequency are just as important to the patient as the knowledge that he is taking 25 mgm. of amitriptyline. The pharmacist, in return for his agreeing to disclose the drug name on the label, might expect the patient's name to be printed in block letters. If we are to have reform let it be complete.

Paying Accounts

Judging from the helpful letters of some of your correspondents, it seems that I have been naive concerning the N.P.U. clearing-house scheme. It will perhaps be recalled that I complained of statements arriving too late for inclusion in the monthly N.P.U. statement, and in consequence having to write individual cheques to pay my monthly bills with the promptness I have always made it a rule to observe. Now I learn, if your correspondents are to be taken as typical, that the thing to do is to hold up payment for another month and to take discounts a month in arrears. I had not thought of that. Perhaps we could have some official comment on the matter, for I still feel that the scheme could be of greater service than it is. Why not a later date in the month, say the 20th?

MEDICINES BILL IN COMMITTEE

Detailed scrutiny from many angles

HOUSE of Commons Standing Committee D began its consideration of the Medicines Bill on March 12.

MR. PAUL DEAN moved one of a number of "probing questions designed to obtain a clearer picture about the establishment, staff and functions of the Medicines Commission." What sort of people would staff the Commission? Would they be civil servants or in some similar category? The Dunlop committee had part-time medical officers and staff seconded from the Ministries — a mixture of technical, professional and administrative staff. Was a similar pattern to be followed for the Commission? Would the Commission have separate accommodation or be located in one of the buildings at present used by the Ministry of Health?

MR. KENNETH ROBINSON (Minister of Health) said he did not want to be too specific about the nature of the staff or the accommodation.

An Independent Secretary?

MR. JOHN PAGE said a letter from the British Medical Association strongly recommended an independent secretary for the Commission, not a "career civil servant."

MR. LAURENCE PAVITT commented that the more the staff could be seen to be independent, the more confidence professional people would have in it.

MR. ROBINSON said that the more the new procedure could be kept like that which had operated so successfully with Dunlop, the better. The Dunlop committee's staff had been seconded from Health Departments. It was proposed to start off with the same staff, and to expand it as additional functions were taken up by the Commission and its expert committees. The Minister's "broad guess" was that the additional staff would, at full functioning probably number about eighty, of whom about two-thirds would be professional and technical.

MR. MAURICE MACMILLAN introduced an amendment to limit the Commission's membership to "not more than twelve." Its aim was, he said, to ensure that while professional and other interests were adequately represented the Commission's predominating influence should be independent and disinterested. What would be the relationship of the Committee with the Ministers, particularly the Minister of Agriculture? So far as one could judge the enforcement procedure would be largely in the hands of the Pharmaceutical Society, but the retail side of pharmacy would not be represented on the Commission. Would the Minister explain the division of responsibility? MR. KENNETH ROBINSON thought the optimum size of the Commission would be between twelve and fourteen, but he was against any attempt to impose on Ministers a fixed maximum.

MR. NIGEL FISHER, declaring an interest as a director of a pharmaceutical company, said that the aim should be a small, high-quality membership.

MR. JAMES SCOTT-HOPKINS was apprehensive that the Commission over the years might become unwieldy.

MR. ROBINSON repeated that it was important to have a degree of flexibility and MR. SCOTT-HOPKINS then pointed out that retail pharmacists were not included among interests to be consulted.

MR. JAMES DEMPSEY considered the guiding factor should be to recruit persons with experience and qualifications in all aspects of medicinal and drug preparations, distribution, commercialism, etc. He had always felt that the largest interest was that of the consumer and he expected to see on the Commission a representative skilled and experienced "in this aspect of medicinal operation in the United Kingdom." On vote the amendment was lost.

MR. SCOTT-HOPKINS moved an amendment to limit membership of the Commission to three years. MR. ROBINSON said he fully intended that members should be appointed for a specific term of office, with provision for reappointment when desirable, but felt that should be done by Regulations. The amendment was later withdrawn.

MR. FISHER moved an amendment that persons appointed should be "acceptable to the organisations consulted."

An "Interest" Declared

MR. MICHAEL ENGLISH, who mentioned that "the firm of Boots" had its headquarters in his constituency, asked the Minister to elaborate on the specific organisations he proposed to consult.

Would the "institution of company chemists" be consulted? If every organisation could veto the recommendations of every other organisation, the situation would be absurd. MR. ENGLISH, when asked to give an example of the possible conflict he had in mind said "The Pharmaceutical Society and the Company Chemists, to name but two. Another example: the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry — a highly reputable body, consisting of the principal manufacturers of pharmaceuticals in this country. Because the majority of the firms are American-owned, it is primarily an American-owned organisation. Second difference is that most of its members are manufacturers, pure and simple. We require to consider the retailing as well as the manufacturing side of the industry, and it is highly probable that the A.B.P.I. would not be the appropriate body to consult."

MR. ROBINSON said there was no doubt, that, on the wording of the amendment, every appointment to the Commission would have to be acceptable to every organisation consulted — the amendment was withdrawn.

On March 14 MR. ENGLISH proposed an amendment to require a member of the Commission to have wide and

recent experience of "that part of the pharmaceutical industry which is concerned principally with medicinal products which are commonly supplied otherwise than in pursuance of prescriptions given by a practitioner."

He suggested it was desirable for the "retail side of the industry" to be represented on the Medicines Commission. The Bill covered more than the safety of drugs. Part IV related to the promotion of sales of medicinal products.

"The Minister is given immense powers over these sales. I am saying that the Minister needs expert advice on the exercise of them."

"... One might say that it can come only from somebody with knowledge of retail selling..." The Commission should not be comprised solely of persons of a purely scientific bent.

MR. SCOTT-HOPKINS said the part of the industry that dealt with household preparations produced about £50 million worth of goods for the home market and exported £20 million. The other section produced £105 million for the home market and exported £70 million. The Commission had appellate powers. It would therefore be grossly unjust and unfair if there were not someone on the Commission with expertise in both activities. Nevertheless he would rather have expert people from the "best brains available."

MRS. JILL KNIGHT said that it was necessary to make sure that the body would not seek to restrict the sale of goods to a certain kind of shop. It was most important that the Commission should consider the divisions that existed in medicine.

She continued "A sufferer from chronic indigestion may use a certain product because he knows that it works for him. He does not need a doctor to help him." She was concerned to protect consumers and was anxious lest the Commission failed to consider such products simply because their manufacturers had no representation on the Commission.

MR. FISHER said he knew the president of the C.B.I. had written emphasising the need for both sides of the industry to be represented on the Commission. He hoped the ministers would agree to the amendment.

Unnecessary to Isolate "Retail"

Replying, MR. JULIAN SNOW (Parliamentary Secretary) said the Minister felt it was unnecessary to isolate "retail" pharmacy from pharmacy as a whole in terms of the responsibility and experience reflected in membership of the Commission. The area of consultation concerning appointments to the Commission was not limited to that described in the White Paper. "We shall take into account the views of the Company Chemists' Association as well as the views of other organisations." The amendment would change the nature of the Commission.

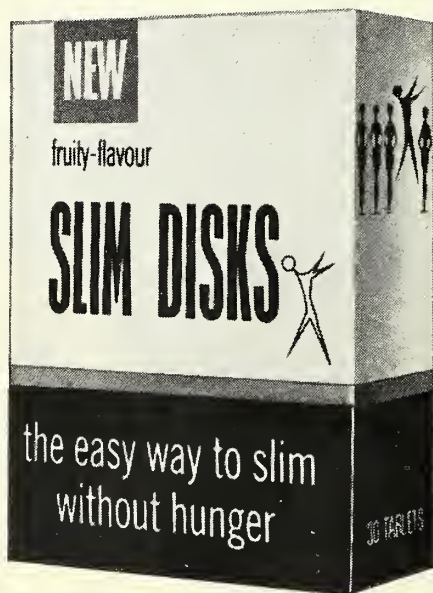
MR. LAURENCE PAVITT said that a tremendous amount of knowledge in

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and, on top of the 75% profit,
it is... attractively packed • low
priced • highly effective • very
convenient • (and naturally, a
very, very good seller)

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the pharmaceutical industry came from dispensing chemists. They knew both the products which they were selling and the products they supplied against prescription.

MR. SNOW said "Certain restrictive attitudes have been adopted about the

range of general sales products and pharmaceuticals. There are two sides to the question." The point would be the subject of consideration on later clauses.

The amendments were put to the vote and rejected.

HIGHER POSTAL RATES

Sweeping changes approved by Prices and Incomes Board

PRICE increases in letter and parcel rates, telephone rentals, trunk calls and gas charges, were recommended in reports issued by the National Board for Prices and Incomes on March 19. The Government accepted the recommendations, which will increase Post Office revenue by about £70 million a year. The principal recommendations in respect of Post Office mail are: A two-tier system providing a first class letter service at fivepence up to 4-oz. and a slower second class service for fourpence with adjustments for higher weights. Postcards will cost the same as letters.

Parcels, inland, will cost sixpence more except those between 2 lb. and 4 lb., which will cost threepence less. Postal orders will cost fourpence up to 5s. value and sixpence from 5s. to £5 value instead of the present 3d., 4d., and 6d. steps. Money orders will cost 3s. 6d. up to the £20 value and 4s. 6d. more than £20 value instead of poundage ranging in five steps from 2s. to 2s. 8d.

The Board suggested that the tariff changes in the inland and overseas letter services should take effect from

April 1969, unless an earlier date were necessary on operational grounds. The parcel charge changes should take effect in the autumn, at the same time as postal and money-order changes. Besides increases in a number of telephone charges, the Board also recommended a three-tier system of charges for dialled trunk calls, with a new peak rate from 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon and 2.30 to 5.30 p.m., present full rates to operate between 8.30 and 9.30 a.m., 12.30 and 2.30 p.m. and 5.30 and 6.30 p.m., cheap rate to be effective between 6.30 p.m. and 8.30 a.m. and all day Saturday and Sunday. The Board recommend that the telegram service, which has always lost money and which the Post Office considers will always do so, should be abolished, but that special arrangements should be made for "life and death" messages (they represent only 1 per cent. of total telegram traffic). The Government accepted the recommendation by the Board that the price of gas should be increased by an average of 8.7 per cent. Actual amount of the increase would vary from area to area and according to the type of consumer.

IN PARLIAMENT

BY A MEMBER OF THE PRESS GALLERY, HOUSE OF COMMONS

DEATHS following the prescribing of Chloromycetin were referred to when MR. LAURENCE PAVITT on March 12 asked the Minister of Health what investigations he had made and if he would make a statement. MR. KENNETH ROBINSON (Minister of Health) in a written answer said that, in the period April 1964 to January 1968, thirty deaths attributed to chloramphenicol, of which Chloromycetin was a particular brand, had been reported to the Committee on Safety of Drugs. In January 1967 the Committee had reminded doctors of the need to discriminate in using the drug in view of the known hazard of serious adverse reactions in some patients. The number of prescriptions had since fallen by nearly one-half.

National Health Service Anniversary

MR. W. A. WILKINS asked what plans the Minister had to mark the twentieth anniversary in July of the beginning of the National Health Service. MR. ROBINSON, in a written answer on March 12, said he was arranging a conference on July 4 and 5, and hoped it would serve both to mark an important stage in the development of a great service, but also — and more importantly — to help to shape the service for the tasks ahead. He would try to secure that the limited number who could be invited were representative of those who would be concerned with the forthcoming tasks.

Detergent Packs

MR. LEWIS CARTER-JONES asked the President of the Board of Trade if he would introduce legislation to define "small," "medium," "large," "giant," "family" and "king" as used on packets by detergent manufacturers. MRS. GWYNETH DUNWOODY (Parliamentary Secretary, Board of Trade) pointed out that the packets were already required to be marked with their weights.

Fair Price Guide

MR. ERIC OGDEN asked if the President of the Board of Trade would seek powers to publish a regular "Fair Price Guide" for household goods, foods and services. In a written answer on March 13, MRS. DUNWOODY said it would be impracticable to offer the service in view of the number of items involved and the variations that occurred seasonally and regionally and between different kinds of shop.

Prescription Charges and Exports

MR. JOHN LEE was told by the Minister of Health on March 13 that no estimate was possible of the value of pharmaceutical preparations that would be "directed into exports" as a result of the prescription charges.

Profits on Medicines

THE Minister told MR. B. C. G. WHITAKER on March 18 that, according to the 1965 report of the Com-

mittee of Inquiry into the Relationship of the Pharmaceutical Industry with N.H.S., the profits before interest and taxation of pharmaceutical companies that completed the questionnaire reported that 20.7 per cent. of companies' total income came from products that might be used in N.H.S. On that basis profits possibly represented about one-eighth of the total cost of drugs. Under the voluntary price-regulation scheme maximum prices of many drugs were determined by criteria that did not call for disclosure of manufacturing costs. Future pricing arrangements were at present under review. The Committee's recommendations about future pricing arrangements were at present under consideration and consultation with the industry.

Distributors' Margins

MR. J. ELLIS asked the Minister of Technology on March 18 what action he had taken to implement the recommendation in the report of the National Board for Prices and Incomes that the profit margin allowed to distributors should be cut in any price rises due to devaluation. The Minister (MR. A. N. W. BENN) said that the Board's recommendations were being taken fully into account, and the attention of trade associations and manufacturers was being drawn to the report. He would consider publishing the details of distributors' margins both before and after the report.

Transporting Dangerous Substances

In a written answer on March 7, MR. HAROLD WILSON (Prime Minister) informed MR. R. GRESHAM COOKE that the division of responsibilities within the Government for the control of dangerous substances was being comprehensively reviewed. The matter was complicated and the review was bound to take some time. Mr. Gresham Cooke had asked the Prime Minister if he would transfer responsibility for the control of the transportation of dangerous substances by road from the Home Office to the Minister of Transport.

LEGAL REPORTS

Undertaking to Continue

A MOTION in the High Court, London, on March 15 by Hoffman-La Roche, S.A., Basle, Switzerland, alleging infringement of a patent by Inter-Continental Pharmaceuticals (Bletchley), Ltd., London, W.C.2, and Curtis & Co., chemists, Baker Street, London, W.1, was adjourned by Mr. Justice Lloyd-Jacob until April 9. In the meantime the defendants have agreed to continue undertakings given at a previous hearing (see C. & D., February 10, p. 118) not to sell, supply or deal in material containing chlorthalidopoxide or its hydrochloride in alleged infringement of the Hoffman-La Roche patent for that drug.

Alleged Patent Infringement

An action by the makers of Preludin, against the manufacturers of Filon tablets is due to be heard at the beginning of the next law term. Mr. Justice Lloyd-Jacob was told in the High

Court on March 14; the term begins on April 23. The plaintiffs, Boehringer Ingelheim G.m.b.H., Ingelheim on Rhine, West Germany, allege infringement of their patent by West Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., and West-Silten Pharmaceuticals, both of St. James Street, London, S.W.1. The English companies asked the judge for leave to answer, out of time, evidence of experiments submitted by the German plaintiffs, explaining that time was needed to consider the experiments and to observe them. For the plaintiffs it was said that the experiments could be repeated in Germany but involved intensive observation of animals over a period of time. Mr. Justice Lloyd-Jacob said that the English companies must be given opportunity to observe the experiments if necessary, but everything possible should be done to enable the date of the trial to be kept.

Altered Prescriptions Detected

A YOUTH who altered a doctor's prescription for vitamin tablets in an attempt to obtain Drinamyl tablets was placed on probation for twelve months by Highgate, London, magistrates on March 18. Daniel Whitley, Liverpool Road, Islington, appearing on remand, had pleaded guilty to attempting to obtain 28 Drinamyl tablets by means of a forged instrument from Elliott Godfrey, chemists, 17 High Road, East Finchley, on February 17. A police officer had told the court that Whitley had obtained from a doctor a prescription for twenty vitamin tablets that he had altered to read twenty-eight Drinamyl tablets, but the chemist noticed that the word Drinamyl was mis-spelt. Whitley had had one previous conviction. — On March 18 a painter, Alexander Reginald Brown, 177 Inderwick Road, London, N.8, who admitted attempting to obtain Drinamyl tablets with false prescriptions, was given a suspended sentence of six months' imprisonment at the Highgate magistrates court. Brown pleaded guilty on a charge that, with intent to defraud, he endeavoured to obtain sixty Drinamyl tablets from Frost & Co., 9 High Street, London, N.8, on February 20; he asked to have two similar offences considered. A police officer said that, on February 20, Brown presented a prescription in an attempt to obtain the tablets, but the chemist noticed the prescription had not been written by a doctor and the police were called. Brown readily admitted the offence.

Who made the sale?

MAGISTRATES at Stanley, co. Durham, decided recently that there was no case to answer after a hearing involving Intercontinental Pharmaceutical (Bletchley), Ltd., London, and awarded costs of £210 against the prosecution. The company had denied selling to a Burnhope doctor between August 9 and September 9, 1967, a drug which bore a false trade description. It was alleged that Durham county council legal department had made a "highly unusual" decision in deciding to go ahead with the prosecution

against the company only seven days after the company had been told it was intended to offer no evidence. The capsules sold to the doctor were labelled ampicillin but were later analysed, the prosecution alleged, and found to be penicillin V potassium. The deputy chief inspector of weights and measures for Durham county told the court that in October 1967 he was called to see Dr. D. H. Bailey at Burnhope and split a consignment of capsules into three samples. Dr. Bailey, in court, said that in August 1967 he was visited by a representative of I.C.P. The representative mentioned that ampicillin had been added to the company's range, and Dr. Bailey ordered 500. He received two packages and two invoices and sent a cheque for the full amount. He agreed that the drugs arrived in a canister marked with an I.C.P. (Eire), Ltd., label and bearing an address in Dublin. The county analyst said that, after carrying out various tests, he was satisfied that the capsules contained penicillin V potassium and not ampicillin. For the company it was submitted that there was no case to answer. "We did not sell the stuff. This is the offence with which we are charged." The Bletchley company, he said, was an entirely different entity from I.C.P. (Eire), Ltd., though they had interlocking business connections.

COMPANY NEWS

Previous year's figures in parentheses

P. P. PAYNE & SONS, LTD. — Net profit for 1967, £77,526 (£102,230). Total dividend is 15 per cent. (22 per cent.).

ASPRO - NICHOLAS, LTD. — A second interim of 12½ per cent. is declared making the total for the year to March 31, 22½ per cent. (20 per cent.) is proposed, making a total of £2,750,000 are forecast (£2,242,055) for last year. The directors had anticipated improved figures due to the effect of devaluation, as two-thirds of the group's business is overseas.

WILKINSON SWORD, LTD. — A final dividend of 27½ per cent. (25 per cent.) is proposed, making a total of 37½ per cent. for 1967 (35 per cent.). Consolidated profit from operations before tax interest is £2,663,692 (£2,042,735). An exceptional credit arises from devaluation, amounting after taxation to £219,156. Group profit £1,539,640 (£1,371,266) of which £1,454,708 (£1,155,948) is attributable to parent company. Export and overseas sales accounted for 59 per cent. of the group's total turnover.

WILLOWS FRANCIS, LTD. — Group results for six months ended December 31, 1967 (excluding Wigglesworth, Ltd., acquired December 1, 1967) were: Sales, £424,510 (£379,838) including exports, £102,320 (£76,631); pre-tax profits, £92,246 (£64,984); profits after tax, £53,636 (£38,947). Less minority interests £3,520 (£2,002). Attributable to shareholders Willows Francis Ltd., £50,116 (£36,945). An interim dividend of 7.5 per cent is declared on increased capital (3.75 per cent. equivalent after allowing for capitalisation in December 1967).

TIMOTHY WHITES & TAYLORS, LTD. — Group profit before tax decreased from £2,584,881 to £2,354,082 in the year to January 13. Net profit is £1,377,482 (£1,582,881). The dividend is unchanged at 11 per cent. Business increased substantially over the previous year, but profits were reduced mainly because selective employment tax cost approximately £180,000 more than in the previous year, and partly by a small decrease in profit margins. The oncost in connection with prescriptions dispensed under National Health Service which was twice reduced during the year.

JOHN & E. STURGE, LTD. — Final dividend 8½ per cent. making a total dividend of 13½ per cent. is recommended (against an equivalent 12 per cent.). Had it not been for the current economic stringency, the directors would have felt justified in paying an extra ½ per cent. on increased capital. The chairman (Mr. A. R. Foxall) forecasts that 1968 will see a total payment of 15 per cent. as current trading continues at the 1967 level. In 1967 group turnover was £3,399,900 (£2,886,600). Pre-tax profit was £453,233 (£308,956) of which tax takes £258,233 (£173,351) leaving a profit of £258,233 (£178,351).

Voluntary Liquidation

RICHMOND CHEMISTS, LTD., 33 Preston Street, Brighton, Sussex. — A statement of affairs presented recently showed liabilities totalling £5,524, of which £4,800 was owing to trade creditors, £187 to expense creditors and £537 to Mr. C. E. Richmond, managing director, on loan account. Assets were estimated to produce £2,002, showing a deficiency of £3,522, subject to the costs of liquidation. It was stated that trading was fairly satisfactory up to 1966 during which time small net profits were earned, but since the beginning of 1967 the turnover had dropped considerably, due to severe opposition by the opening of super markets in the immediate vicinity. Trading figures covering the period November 30, 1967 - February 2, 1968, showed that on sales of £16,900 a net loss of £1,657 was incurred. Creditors confirmed the voluntary winding-up of the company and appointed Mr. R. P. Booth, F.C.A. Booth, White and Co., 1 Wardrobe Place, Carter Lane, London, E.C.4, as liquidator.

BUSINESS CHANGES

ASHFORD CO - OPERATIVE CHEMISTS, LTD., have transferred their High Street, Ashford, Kent branch, to larger premises at 24 Bar Street.

ARNOLD M. GEE, LTD., have acquired the pharmacy of Blue Cro Chemists, Ltd., 40 Parton Road, Aylebury Bucks, from March 6 and operating under the name of Arnold M. Gee Ltd.

PAKLITE, LTD., Denbigh Road Bletchley, Bucks, has been formed to manufacture PVC bottles and containers, etc. The company is connected with Britiona, Ltd., Mulvern Road London, N.19. Mr. C. D. Renfrew is

joined the new company as marketing director.

MR. C. HARROP, M.P.S., has acquired the pharmacy at 9 Cox Green Parade, Wessex Way, Maidenhead, Berks, formerly owned by Blue Cross Chemists, Ltd

APPOINTMENTS

Directors

WINTHROP PRODUCTS CO., have appointed Dr. R. S. Inch their managing director and Mr. E. E. Barber (formerly financial director) their deputy managing director.

BOOTS PURE DRUG CO., LTD. — Mr. D. E. M. Appleby is to be special director on join the company as financial director. April 1. Mr. Appleby is financial director and secretary of Wilkinson Sword, Ltd.



Dr. R. S. Inch

Executives

FOOD INDUSTRIES, LTD., having merged and streamlined Northern and Southern sales divisions into a single structure have appointed Mr. J. A. Morgan, U.K. sales manager and Mr. C. J. C. Haimes, marketing manager.

Representatives

COUNTERPOINT STORE EQUIPMENT, LTD., have appointed Mr. H. Norcott their representative for the territory in and around Liverpool.

J. GROSSMITH & SON, LTD., have appointed Mr. J. B. Nicol the representative for East and North-east Scotland and Glasgow and Mr. W. Jobb, representative for West and North-west Scotland, excluding Glasgow.

PERSONALITIES

MR. A. A. FOSTER, a lecturer in pharmacy at the department of pharmacy, Chelsea College of Science and Technology, is emigrating to Australia where he has obtained a senior post at the Victoria College of Pharmacy.

DR. M. J. T. PEASTON, M.B., Ch.B., Ph.D., (lecturer in clinical pharmacology, University of Liverpool), has been awarded a Merck Sharp & Dohme international fellowship to study clinical pharmacology for two years in the United States.

MR. L. BARWELL, advertising manager, The British Drug Houses, Ltd., has retired after twenty-one years' service with the company. Mr. Barwell began his career in the advertising department of Boots Pure Drug Co., Ltd., and moved to Burroughs Wellcome & Co. before ultimately joining B.D.H. in 1947. He has been responsible for the company's Press and direct-mail promotions, for about thirty-five exhibition stands across the world. He has played an important rôle in the

task of updating the company's thousands of packs to feature the B.D.H. trade mark in its now well known form. Since 1964 he has had specific responsibility for the promotional needs of the B.D.H. laboratory chemicals division at Poole.

OVERSEAS VISITS

MR. R. MORRIS (director, André Philippe, Ltd.) is visiting the company's principal distributors and agents in Austria, Switzerland, Italy and Malta. After his return, Mr. L. R. Silverstone (director) will be visiting principal distributors and agents in Finland, Austria, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Holland and Belgium.

DEATHS

BATE. — On February 23, Mr. Joseph William Bate, M.P.S., 14 Meadow Road, Bristnall Fields, Oldbury, nr. Birmingham. Mr. Bate qualified in 1916 and retired in 1956 after forty years in the business founded by his father at Stafford Street, Walsall.

BROWN. — On February 17, Mr. Harold Brown, M.P.S., 45 Queensway Bamber-bridge, nr. Preston, Lancs. Mr. Brown qualified in 1922.

BROWN. — On March 6, Mr. Joseph Wightman Brown, M.P.S., 163 Mayfield Road, Edinburgh. Mr. Brown qualified in 1906.

EMMETT. — On March 6, Mrs. Jane Smalley Emmett, M.P.S., 59 Newark Road, Lincoln. Mrs. Emmett qualified in 1938.

FALDING. — On March 7, Mr. Walter Bullock Falding, M.P.S., 54 Old Brompton Road, London, S.W.7, aged ninety-two. Mr. Falding qualified in 1902. He was for many years managing director of P. Bolton, Ltd., South Kensington, and up to a few years ago took a keen interest in the business. He was elected president of the Western (London) Pharmacists' Association in 1928, and was its social secretary for several years.

HOLDING. — On March 11, as the result of an explosion at his home, Mr. Charles Holding, assistant perfumery chemist with Chas. Zimmermann & Co., Ltd., Perivale, Greenford, Middlesex, aged twenty-three. Mr. Holding, a son of Mr. Charles Holding of Bourjois, Ltd., joined Messrs. Zimmermann about six months ago, and was regarded as having great promise as a perfumer.

HUTCHISON. — On March 8, Mr. Thomas Cochrane Hutchison, 1395 Paisley Road West, Glasgow, S.W.2. Mr. Hutchison qualified in 1913 and retired in 1953.

JOHNSTONE. — On March 10, Mr. James Oliver Johnstone, J.P., M.P.S.,

Herries, Reading Road, Wallingford, Berks, aged sixty. Mr. Johnstone qualified in 1929. He was elected to Wallingford borough council in 1950, was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1953, mayor in 1954 and an alderman in 1958.

PATON. — On February 25, Mr. John Montgomerie Boyd Paton, M.P.S., 67 Cyprus Road, Mapperley Park, Nottingham. Mr. Paton qualified in 1923.

PEARSON. — On March 2, Mr. John Thomas Pearson, M.P.S., 18 Tarsset Road, South Wellfield, Whitley Bay, Northumberland. Mr. Pearson qualified in 1923.

SPENCER. — On March 7, Mr. Frederick John Spencer, M.P.S., Fairway, 157 Loxley Road, Stratford-on-Avon. Mr. Spencer qualified in 1922.

WILLIAMSON. — On March 10, Mr. Robert Beattie Brown Williamson, M.P.S., 48 Warriston Avenue, Edinburgh, 3. Mr. Williamson qualified in 1936.

EXPANSION PROJECTS

A TEN-HECTARE site has been acquired by Parke, Davis-France in the industrial area north of Colmar, where the construction of a gelatin-capsules plant is envisaged. Another factory is subsequently being erected at which the United States parent company's pharmaceutical specialities will be manufactured.

COALITE AND CHEMICAL PRODUCTS, LTD., are extending their alkylation capacity at Bolsover. The extensions, which will be completed within the next few months, are designed to produce several hundred tons a year of para-tertiary-amyphenol, which will be available for both home and export markets later this year.

A FURTHER stage in the expansion of their phthalic anhydride production at Stallingborough, Lincs, is announced by Laporte Industries, Ltd. At present 18,000 tons of phthalic anhydride are manufactured there and 6,000 tons at their Ilford site. A further 12,000 tons a year at Stallingborough are going on stream in mid-1968 and the present announcement refers to a new plant installation capable of producing an additional 30,000 tons a year. The process will employ orthoxylene as feed-stock and supplies of this raw material have been covered, both for existing and expanded plant needs. Arrangements have been completed for the bulk of Laporte's orthoxylene needs for the 1970's to be supplied by B.P. California from their petrochemical installation in Grangemouth. Laporte's total investment in phthalic anhydride facilities recently completed and now building will amount to over £6 million.

Mr. L. N. Barwell (centre) with Mr. T. E. Rushbrook (sales promotion executive, B.D.H. (International), Ltd., (left) and Mr. A. G. George, newly appointed advertising manager, B.D.H. Laboratory chemicals division, Poole.

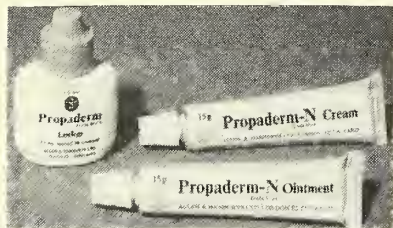


NEW PRODUCTS AND PACKS

PHARMACEUTICAL SPECIALITIES

In New "Push-through" Pack. — Selpharm Laboratories, Ltd., Percival House, Pinner Road, Harrow, Middlesex, announce that from March 25, Ponderax (fenfluramine) is appearing in new "push-through" bubble pack, making the tablets more easily accessible and halving the external pack dimensions. There is no alteration in pack contents or prices.

Lotion, Ointment and Cream. — Allen & Hanburys, Ltd., Bethnal Green, London, E.2, have added to their range of Propaderm preparations Propaderm lotion and Propaderm-N ointment and cream. The lotion like the existing Propaderm preparations, contains 0.025 per



cent of beclomethasone dipropionate in an aqueous, opalescent vehicle. It is indicated for skin lesions involving large areas, particularly in weeping or acute eczematous conditions, or for skin folds or hairy sites. The ointment and cream contain, in addition to 0.025 per cent. of beclomethasone dipropionate, 0.5 per cent. of neomycin sulphate. Propaderm lotion is available in plastic squeeze bottle of 15 and 50 mls. Propaderm-N ointment and cream are each available in tubes of 15 and 50 gm.



A PRODUCT FOR CHEMISTS ONLY: New Intrin by Trentham Laboratories, (H.T.L.), Arkwright Street, Nottingham (see C. & D., January 27, p. 71) contains at least 1500 mgm. of methyl cellulose per teaspoonful and is for sale by chemists only.

REDESIGNED PACKS: A selection of the redesigned packs adopted by Fisons Pharmaceuticals, Ltd., Loughborough, Leics, for Bisks skinning aids. Each contains a membership application form for a new Bisks Skimmers Club.



FOODS

In Redesigned Pack. — A bright new pack has been introduced for Ovaltine Chuckles soft rusk, the "ideal first solid food for babies." The new pack has been specially designed by the



makers, A. Wander, Ltd., 42 Upper Grosvenor Street, London, W.1 to create maximum impact at point-of-sale. The pack is in orange, black and white. Each 8-oz. pack contains twelve rusks.

Diabetic Chocolates. — Three new lines, plain mint, coffee and orange-flavoured milk have been added to the range of chocolate bars produced for diabetics by A. Wander, Ltd., 42 Upper Grosvenor Street, London, W.1. Each bar weighs 1.16 oz. (33 gm.) and contains fifteen pieces. The products have been prepared in consultation with the British Diabetic Association and are enriched with Vitamin B₁. They are packed in 24-bar display outers, recommended retail selling price is 1s. per bar. Carbohydrate contents of the plain mint, coffee milk and orange-flavoured milk chocolate bars are approximately equivalent to 155, 160 and 165 calories per oz. respectively.

COSMETICS AND TOILETRIES

Holiday Cosmetic Set. — Elizabeth Arden, Ltd., 25 Old Bond Street, London, W.1, have produced for holiday

makers a combined pack of milky liquid cleanser, skin tonic, hand lotion and roll-on deodorant in soft pink case "with Blue Grass horses leaping across it."

French Herb Shampoo. — Latest product in the "French of London" range of hair preparations manufactured by French & Scott, Ltd., 1a Downs Park Road, London, E.8, is French herb



shampoo, containing the active substances from nine different herbs. Packed in the 4-oz. bottle associated with the range and in transparent sachet, the shampoo has a mild antidandruff action and is suitable for use by the whole family.

Improved and Repackaged. — The Dhaussy depilatory pad of Alfred Franks & Bartlett Co., Ltd., 276 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, S.W.1, is now in a redesigned outer, the pad itself now made from improved soft, pink,

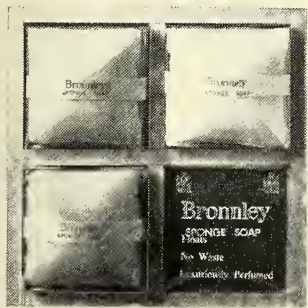


gently abrasive paper imported from France. The product is claimed to be the only cosmetic hair-removing glove on the market. Packed one gross to the box, it is presented in an eye-catching counter display/"dispenser" unit, and is obtainable through wholesalers or direct.

Tonic Bath Additive. — Produced to meet the market between utility and high-priced luxury preparations in its fields, Laguna tonic bath additive is

about to be launched by Miles Laboratories, Ltd., Stoke Court, Stoke Poges, Bucks. Laguna is an instantly dissolving bath additive with a light sweet-pea perfume. It gives the bath water a light tropical blue colour, softens hard water and produces a mild foam. Pack is a carton with unique opener and pourer. The carton also has a water-proof lining. It is available in 12-oz. and 20-oz. sizes.

Sponge Soap. — H. Bronnley & Co., Ltd., Brackley, Northants, have added to their range Bronnley sponge soap, a coloured square of soft sponge holding a tablet of superfatted toilet soap. The sponge soap, say the manufacturers, is economical in use because no film of soap remains on the skin to be rinsed



off, and long lasting because sponge soap cannot get too wet (it does not therefore allow a wasteful jelly to form). Another "plus" of the product is that it floats. Sponge soap is issued in acetate box in a choice of three colours and fragrance (blue for lavender, pink for rose-geranium and yellow for lemon verbena).

Sun-tan Gel. — Southalls (Sales), Ltd., Bessemer Road, Welwyn Garden City, Herts, have launched sun-tan gel and issued a new "economy" pack of their continental sun-tan oil. The gel is non-sticky and non-greasy, spreads



quickly and easily, and overcomes disadvantages inherent in conventional products. The claim is made for it that it will not pick up sand or run into the

eyes and sting. The gel is in plastic tube with on-pack display card. The family pack of sun-tan oil, which contains 130 c.c., will have a special interest for persons going abroad, conserving their currency allowance.

SUNDRIES

Lipstick Mirror for any Case. — A new Lipview mirror in the Stratton series of Laughton & Sons, Ltd., Warstock Road, Birmingham, 14, is made in a selection of finishes and designs to match other items in the Stratton range. It is understood to fit any type of lipstick case. The mirror is presented in gold and green pack with acetate cover.

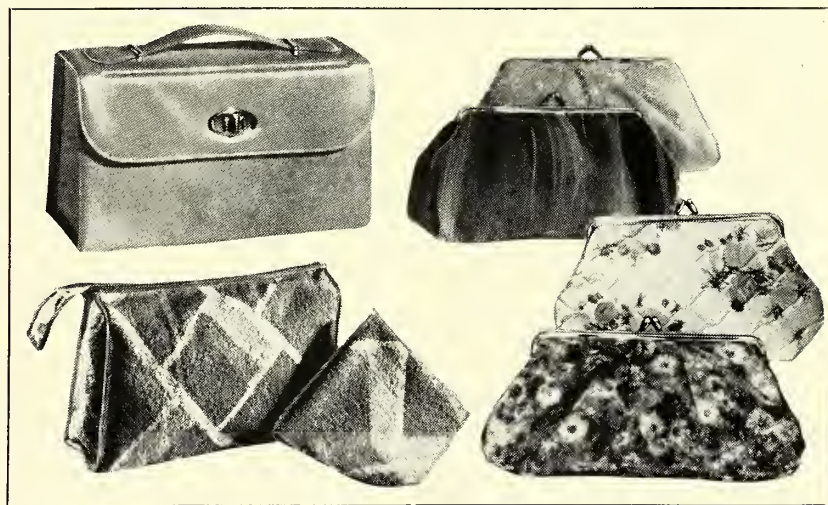
Hair Rollers to Measure. — The Abco cut-a-roller introduced by A. Burnet & Co., Ltd., Wycliffe Mills, Mount Street, New Basford, Nottingham enables customers with minimum effort to cut hair rollers to the length they require. The rollers come in 14 in. lengths (large, medium or small diameter). Pins are supplied.

Eyelash Curler. — Eylure, Ltd., 8 Grosvenor Street, London, W.1, have revived the once-popular eyelash curler and recommend it to be used in curling lashes before applying make up. The gilded curler is fitted with a tiny rubber to soften the curl. Messrs. Eylure have also introduced "individual" lashes (taken with tweezers from a circular "dispenser", dipped in glue and fixed to upper or lower lids one by one. The suggestion is to wear a pair of Eylure strip lashes and to add "individuals."

Unique First-aid Treatment. — Describing the product as a "new concept in first aid," Unicliffe, Ltd., Sandwich, Kent have launched nationally, following a successful test marketing in Oxford, York and the Anglia T.V. areas TCP first-aid pads. Each tin contains twenty lint pads soaked in TCP anti-



septic with a special cleansing agent added and intended as a quick, convenient and hygienic way of cleaning minor injuries, cuts grazes, spots, etc. If desired a pad may be left on.



In the 1968 Range.—A wide variety of attractive waterproof sponge bags, holdalls and pochettes are available in the 1968 range offered by Solport Brothers, Ltd., Portia House, Goring Street, Goring-by-Sea, Sussex. They are illustrated in a 4-p. catalogue obtainable from the company, and a few have been selected for illustration on this page. In the smaller picture at right is model W912 sponge bag in PVC and proofed cotton. Above are, top left, welded PVC holdall W949BS; bottom left, towelling holdall with matching face square W953FS; and at right pochettes W918, W916, W884 and W885. The company also offer to produce models to customers' designs.



TRADE NOTES

Full Range on Stand.—A new circular "dispenser" stand produced by Steiner Products, Ltd., Harvist Road, London, N.7, displays the full range of Steiner products.

A "Boutique" of Small Sundries.—All forty Lady Jayne hair products of Laughton & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham, 14, are available in stand 1000/21, described as a "boutique" at a profit of £22 1s. 10d. on an outlay of £46 9s.

One Tap, Ten Bulbs.—The British Oxygen Co., Ltd., Hammersmith House, London, W.6, point out that the Sparklets Beertap is sold singly; the Sparklets-C bulbs come in a box of ten [corrected note].

In Improved Package.—Welch's improved iron tablets for relief of anaemia, loss of vitality and skin blemishes are now issued in an improved package. Makers are C. & G. Kearsley, Ltd., 71 Dartmouth Road, London, S.E.23.

"Backing Britain" Face Cloth.—Jackel & Co., Ltd., Kitty Brewster Estate, Blyth, Northumberland, have joined the "We're Backing Britain" campaign by including in their range of Macey products a Union Jack face cloth in pack of six.

New Shades.—Eylure, Ltd., 8 Grosvenor Street, London, W.1, have added to their range of nail colours frosted platinum, coral, peach and pink. A jet black is now available in the range of sable two-star and three-star lashes, and green and blue have been added to the company's eye-make-up kit.

Health Lamp Certificate Forms.—AEG (Great Britain), Ltd., 27 Chancery Lane, London, W.C.2, offer free to chemists "medical certificate forms" for their Wotan health lamps. The form is taken by a would-be purchaser to a medical practitioner for completion.

Change in Manufacture/Distribution.—Day, Son & Hewitt, Ltd., 22 Dorset Street, London, W.1, have been appointed by the purchaser of McClure, Young & Co., Ltd. (see C. & D., March 2, p. 186), for the manufacture and distribution of all products of McClure Young & Co.

Now in Six-vial Packs.—Lederle Laboratories, a division of Cyanamid of Great Britain, Ltd., Bush House, Aldwych, London, W.C.2, are replacing the single-unit packs of Achromycin intramuscular 100-mgm. vial and Achromycin intravenous 250-mgm. and 500-mgm. vials with packs of six vials.

Very Much on Sale.—Rapidol, Ltd., 27 Dover Street, London, W.1, point out that their Hint of a Tint shampoo sachet is "still very much on the market" and has not been discontinued as would appear from last week's Quarterly Price List supplement. The discontinued item was the bottle of Hint of a Tint, which retailed at 4s.

Agents in Northern Ireland.—J. Grossmith & Son, Ltd., 41 Piccadilly, London, W.1, have appointed J. Dougherty & Son, Ltd., Corner House, Belaghly, co. Londonderry, the sole agents and stockists in Northern Ireland from April 1, of their ranges of perfumery and toiletries, including

those of Norman Hartnell, Ltd., manufactured and distributed by the company.

Joint Marketing Arrangement.—Evans Electro Selenium, Ltd., Halstead, Essex, and Griffin & George, Ltd., Alpertown, Middlesex, have agreed on a joint marketing arrangement for their clinical and industrial automation equipment. The agreement covers the United Kingdom and all overseas countries where either company is represented.

Selling Agents.—Ernest Jackson & Co., Ltd., suppliers of pharmaceutical pastilles, lozenges and glucose confectionery, have appointed Wm. Hill & Co., 63 Berkeley Street, Glasgow, C.3, their sole selling agents in Scotland to wholesale and retail chemists, and Mr. H. C. Harvey, Rockville, Kilmore Road, Crossgar, Belfast, as their sole selling agent to wholesale and retail chemists in Northern Ireland.

Bulk Vitamins.—Beecham Research Laboratories, Great West Road, Brentford, Middlesex, are marketing from April 1 the range of bulk vitamin products previously associated with Vitamins, Ltd., including folic acid, inositol, hesperidin, calcium pantothenate and vitamins A, B, C, D and E. Manufacturers' inquiries and orders should be addressed to Messrs. Beecham's bulk products department from that date.

New Lipstick Colours.—Helena Rubinstein, Ltd., 3 Grafton Street, London, W.1, have launched a range of lip colours, "Lip Rage," in a sleek case. They are described as "warm, glowing colours that give lips a new gloss and a new definition." Names of colours are "Beige Rage," "Pink Rage," "Orchid Rage," "Coral Rage" and "Flame Rage," each created to be used over or under gold or silver "Rage."

Agents Appointed.—Sale Pharmaceuticals, Ltd., Harrogate, have appointed Samuel S. Goldberg & Co., Ltd., Woodhead Road, Nitshill Industrial Estate, Glasgow, S.W.3, their distributors and agents for Scotland and Cullen & Davison, Ltd., Portadown, co. Armagh for Northern Ireland. All orders for Ipsel hygienic baby salve in Scotland or Northern Ireland from wholesale or retail sources should be addressed to the appropriate company.

Book of Beauty.—The Max Factor "Book of Beauty," produced by Max Factor Hollywood and London (Sales), Ltd., 16 Old Bond Street, London, W.1, "covers everything any woman of any age wants to know about how to improve her individual looks." In its 128 pages it deals with skin care, face, eye and lip make-up, manicure, hair beauty, grooming and the figure. It tells a woman how to diagnose her skin type and basic colour so as to avoid wrong purchases, what to do about skin blemishes, why certain lipstick colours do not suit all women, how to disguise ageing lines, or a receding chin and a host of similar problems. The book may be obtained at 9s. 6d. by any woman who writes in to the company using a leaflet available at Max Factor cosmetics counters or during March and April a coupon from a Kleenex tissue pack.

Bonus Offers

BAYER PRODUCTS, LTD., Winthrop House, Surbiton, Surrey. Panadeine Co. Twelve invoiced as eleven. Twenty-four invoiced as twenty.

CHEMIST BROKERS, Crown House, Morden, Surrey. Ice Blue and other J. B. Williams products including Electric Shave. Goods to the value of 26s. 9d. with each order of 4 doz. assorted. Ice Blue mini-counter display containing twenty-one units counts as 2 doz. toward bonus.

Discontinued

BENGUE & Co., LTD., Wembley, Middlesex. Opopyl pills (dispensing pack of 250 pills in United Kingdom). Pack of fifty pills continues available.

BOOTS PURE DRUG CO., LTD., Station Street, Nottingham, NG2 3AA. Penicillin, B.P., ointments (½-oz. and 1-oz.).

COX-CONTINENTAL, LTD., 85 Church Road, Hove, Sussex. Co-tab coded tablets A.10, A.12 & A.13 (acid acetylsal. 150 mgm., 450 mgm. and 600 mgm.), A.15 (acid acetylsal. sol. for infants), A.16 (acid acetylsal. et opii. co.) A.17 (acid acetylsal. et phenacetin.), A.19 (acid acetylsal. et ippecac et opii), A.20 alum. hydrox.), C.19 (carbromal), D.14 (digitalis 100 mgm.), E.19 (ethisterone), N.11 (nicotinic acid, 50 mgm.), P.7 (phenobarb. sod. 30 mgm.), P.16 (pethidine 50 mgm.), P.17 (phenacetin.), P.18 (phenacet. et. caffeine.), P.21 (phenobarb., 125 mgm.), P.22, P.23 and P.24 (phenobarb. sod., 60 mgm., 100 mgm. and 125 mgm.), Q.11 (quinidin., 125 mgm.) and R.11 (reserpin., 500 microgm.), S25, sulphadimidine 0.5 gm.

DELANDALE LABORATORIES, LTD., 24 Kilburn High Road, London, N.W.6. Sorbidel (pack of twenty 5-gm. sachets).

DISTA PRODUCTS, LTD., Fleming Road, Speke, Liverpool, 24. Pack of 1,000 'DISTAQUAINE' V Tablets, 125 mgm. Pack of 1,000 (packs of 100 and 500 remain available). Pack of 1,000 'Distaquaine' V Sulpha tablets. Pack of 1,000 (packs of thirty and 200 remain available).

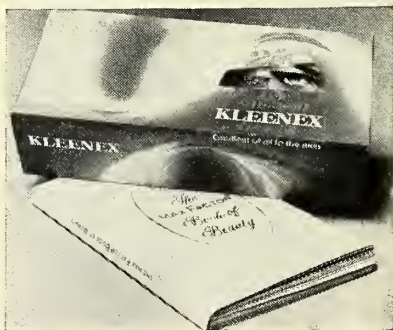
G. D. SEARLE & Co., LTD., High Wycombe, Bucks. Dramamine tablets. Bottle of 100 discontinued in view of increasing preference for strip packaging (packs of thirty-six, 500 and 1,000 continue available).

SMITH & NEPHEW PHARMACEUTICALS, LTD., Bessemer Road, Welwyn Garden City, Herts. Calyptol, Dilacol, Spaznil and Thermona.

UPJOHN, LTD., Fleming Way, Crawley, Sussex. Cortef acetate ointment 2.5 per cent. (5 gm.). Pack of 20 gm. 2.5 per cent. continues available.

Competitions

DOROTHY GRAY, LTD., 45 Conduit Street, London, W.1. Elation make-up. "Christen a lipstick" competition. Two first prizes of an MGB sports car; second prize a colour television set; fifty runner-up prizes. Open to any purchaser.



JOINT OFFER: During March and April all packs of Kleenex Silk Soft tissues feature an offer of the Max Factor "Book of Beauty" at a saving of 20s. 6d. to any person sending a tear-out strip from the Kleenex pack.

Correspondence

Letters when received must bear the name and address of the sender, not necessarily for publication. The Editor does not hold himself responsible for the views expressed.

Lithium

SIR,—May I add to your fascinating history "Lithium Comes into its Own" (On the Sidelines, March 2, p. 193) the fact that lithium carbonate is now widely used therapeutically to combat manic and manic-depressive illness.

G. A. SCHMEIDLER,
London, W.C.1

Clearing-house Accounts

SIR,—Further to the replies to Xrayser's column of March 9, I withheld the late arrivals until the following month when they have the following rubber stamp on them:—

RECEIVED TOO LATE
FOR N.P.U. 11th

Contrary to Xrayser's experience, I usually receive thirty-seven out of forty statements by the appointed date.

YORKEE

The Trade Responds

SIR,—I am delighted to be able to tell you that in the Thermos "Back Britain" campaign (see *C. & D.*, March 2, p. 203), we have had a most encouraging response from the public, our friends in the trade, and above all from our own employees at our various factories. Also several other manufacturers have indicated their intention to support us. The sales of our special Union Jack flasks have far exceeded our expectations, both at home and — what is perhaps more important — in a number of overseas markets.

THERMOS, LTD.,

T. J. MCCARTHY, *Managing director*,
Brentwood, Essex

A Potentially Dangerous Practice

SIR,—We enclose herewith a copy of a letter received from the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Government of Northern Ireland regarding our product Dabitoff.

I am directed by the Minister of Home Affairs to draw to your attention a practice which has grown amongst some young persons living in the Belfast area involving Dabitoff, which is, I understand, produced by your company. The Ministry has been informed that lately a number of teenagers have been buying quantities of Dabitoff (and also another dry-cleaning preparation Thawpiti) and inhaling its vapour for the resulting mental effect. This practice is, I am informed, potentially dangerous and the Ministry is anxious that some steps should be taken to curb it. Perhaps you would therefore consider whether it would be possible to warn retailers of the misuse of the product and to suggest to them that care should be taken to ensure that it is only supplied to young persons if it can be shown to their satisfaction that it is wanted for a proper purpose.

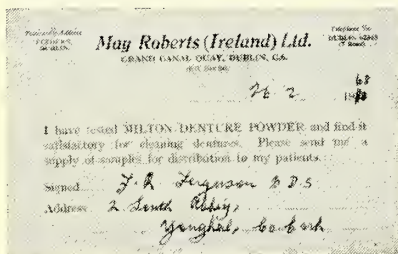
As you will see, the Minister is anxious that some steps should be taken to make retailers aware of the misuse of a product of this kind. We should be

grateful if you would draw the attention of your readers to this particular point.

EUCRYL, LTD.,
P. KING, *Managing Director*,
Southampton

After Thirty Years

SIR,—I am enclosing a sample request received by our Dublin office towards the end of February. You will



see the postcard was posted by Mr. Ferguson, dentist on February 26, 1968. The card was originally sent out by us in 1938!

MAY, ROBERTS (IRELAND), LTD.,
T. McAULIFFE, *Director*,
Limerick, Eire

Prescription Charges

SIR,—In scraping the barrel for odd half-crowns the Government should leave the chemists and doctors in peace. They would get precious little from my practice, as most patients are either old, young, or chronics, (i.e., they call week after week for the same medicine, usually tranquillisers to alleviate the worry of bad government.) Why not reintroduce poundage on receipts? Formerly it was legally necessary to stick a twopenny stamp on any receipt for £2 or over. The Cheques Act of 1957 removed the necessity of a receipt unless asked for, and in the latter case a twopenny stamp is still necessary, if over £2 is received. I usually ask for a receipt and rarely get a stamped one. Why not sixpence on £5 and thereafter sixpence on every additional £50? That would not hurt anyone and would produce millions in a year. But to take 2s. 6d. from sick persons is just nonsense.

C. H. PATRICK,
Twyford, Berks

Ward Disinfectants

SIR,—The addresses by Messrs. Myers and Sykes to the Scottish hospital pharmacists (*C. & D.*, March 9, p. 220, and March 16, 243), have been read by us with great interest. We should like to endorse Mr. Myers' recommendation of 0.1 per cent. E.D.T.A. solution instead of plain tap water in making up Dettol solutions for use in wards. The method is particularly valuable in wards where cross infection by resistant strains of *Pseudomonas pyocyanea* is a problem, since it has been shown in our laboratories, by a survey of many strains

of *Ps. pyocyanea* from clinical cases in hospitals, that all strains are readily destroyed by Dettol diluted to 1 in 300 with 0.1 per cent. E.D.T.A. and it is quite impossible to contaminate working-strength solutions of Dettol in 0.1 per cent. E.D.T.A. with any of those strains, whether they are unusually resistant or not. The use of E.D.T.A. has a further advantage in that it makes possible the direct use of hard as well as soft-water supplies by greatly improving the stability and consequently the antibacterial activity of Dettol solutions in hard water. All solutions, regardless of the quality of the water supply, become self-sterilising. They can be kept for several days without deterioration, in the manner advocated by Mr. Myers and introduced by him at the Bradford Royal Infirmary as a consequence of work done by him in collaboration with our laboratories. RECKITT & SONS, LTD.,

R. LYTH, *Chief bacteriologist*,
Hull, Yorks.

Sunday Trading

SIR,—May I point out that, if the reply of the Secretary of State for the Home Department on Sunday Trading (*C. & D.*, March 16, p. 233) means that more shops will be open on Sundays, then in the interests of national health and of progress, this makes even more imperative a "negligible" general sale list under the Medicines Bill, planned distribution of pharmacies, and probably revised rota arrangements. The position is that many necessary pharmacies not now being near a surgery, and so many other shops now having joined the grocers and sweet shops in selling medicines, those "necessary" pharmacies have now become slightly more pharmaceutically underpaid, though at present most other medicine-selling shops are precluded by law or leases from Sunday opening in opposition to the pharmacy. There is, of course, the question who wants work at the present "national income," which accrues incidentally only from part of one's time and then in greater measure to the pharmacy dispensing the greater number of prescriptions and not anything like *pro rata* to the pharmacy giving advice or referring the patient back to the doctor (an increasing problem even though "Nomen Proprium" is not yet obligatory). The point made by Sir Arnold France at his last meeting with the Public Accounts Committee about getting rid of the overheads of the *superfluous* pharmacies was but a glimpse of the daylight that ought to lie ahead.

PHARMACIST IN THE
GENERAL-PRACTICE FIELD

Stamping EC10's

SIR,—With reference to the proposed scheme for the introduction of plastic cards and machines for stamping exempt EC10's, I think that the scheme is stupid, unworkable, a waste of phar-

macists' time and a waste of public money. The scheme should be opposed by Local Pharmaceutical Committees and by the Central N.H.S. (Chemist Contractors) Committee with the utmost vigour. They should not allow it to be thrust upon pharmacists. If the Minister of Health refuses to listen, then he should be informed that the Central Committee will advise all contractors to refuse to operate the scheme and, on receipt of the machines, to return them to the Minister immediately. I am sure that the Minister will think again if we are united in this action.

M. S. SMITH,
Tamworth, Staffs

SIR,—The prescription charge solution is obvious: two colours of forms. Embarrassment to the patient can be completely ignored by issuing the general medical practitioner with a supply of envelopes in which special-coloured "no charge" forms may be inserted and handed unopened to the pharmacist who would have the foresight to open the envelope in the privacy of his dispensary. No one else would then see the forms and the problem would be solved. As, too, the g.p.s have patients' records giving dates of birth (which takes care of the over-65 and under 15 groups, chronic sickness would be entirely in the good hands of the G.P. I think this method is simple, not expensive, and certainly not in the £4 million bracket envisaged for the embossed plastic cards. Further more financial assistance is available to the g.p. to deal with records, but not—as yet—to the pharmacist.

JAMES GOW & SON,
Fortrose, Ross-shire

SIR,—Negotiations with the Ministry over any increase are unnecessarily long and we have seen oncost shrinking over the years. Yet we are doubtless expected to operate the prescription-charge system, with its extra work; the problems of collecting where patients have either not brought the money or sent a child without the money. No thought seems to have been given by the Ministry to the frustrations involved. I am against any form of collection by pharmacists, and would suggest that branch secretaries should send the views of members to the chemist contractors' committee. Individually we have no "voice", but as a whole we can, I am sure, be heard.

D. CAWDELL,
Wainfleet, Lincs

SIR,—Much has been written lately of the proposed manner of identifying prescriptions of patients exempted from payment. The Minister of Health has made it clear that the identity-card scheme was the only one that would be acceptable to the Ministry, Exchequer and doctors. May we now be given a description of the card and the details which we will be required to transfer to the embossing machine (which will, of course, remain the property of the Ministry) with perhaps illustrations of the apparatus and estimates of the time involved for every form?

G. W. NEWLING,
Orpington, Kent

BRANCH EVENTS

LONDON AND SURREY GOLFERS Record Number at Annual Dinner

A RECORD number of 143 members and guests attended the annual dinner and dance of the South London and Surrey Pharmacists Golfing Society held in Sydenham on February 21.



GOLFERS' GET-TOGETHER: From left to right—Mr. Fred Hodgson (captain) with Mrs. Hodgson together with Mrs. Lawson Rathall and Mr. Wrathall (president of the South London and Surrey Golfing Society) photographed at the Society's annual dinner.

Originally arranged tentatively and cunningly for the ladies just before the commencement of the golfing season in 1957 the function continues to be "a happy success." MR. FRED HODGSON (captain) who received the company with Mrs. Hodgson thought that the decision to keep the charge similar to last year's was a great example to "certain other persons who intended imposing an extra 2s. 6d. charge." A toast was drunk to members who were unable to attend. After the dinner Mrs. Hodgson made a table draw, four ladies from each table receiving a gift. Mr. Ivor Spencer performed the duties of toastmaster and Master of Ceremonies for the eleventh time.

WEST HAM

Praise for Bulletin

CHIEF guest at this year's dinner and dance of the West Ham and District Association of Pharmacists and East Metropolitan Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society on March 7 was the Ministry of Health's chief pharmacist, Dr. T. D. Whittet. In proposing the toast of the Association, DR. WHITTET had a special word of praise for its bulletin, edited by the Association's president Mr. A. W. Newberry, whom he had last met, he said, in the Lebanon. From the bulletin he had learned also with great pleasure, that the Association was now holding its meetings at the medical centre at Whipps Cross hospital. He hoped pharmacists would be admitted to membership at many such centres. From his own days in hospital pharmacy he recalled a patient's remark "A little drop of medicine does you no harm when you're in good health." That was a belief of doubtful truth in the conditions of today, and one merit of the Medicines Bill now before Parliament was its recognition that medicines were not ordinary merchandise. In his response MR. NEWBERRY paid tribute to Dr. Whittet as one who in modern parlance, "projects the right image" of pharmacy. He also welcomed as guest the chairman (Dr.

H. Wykeham Balme) of the newly formed Forest Medical Society, centred upon Whipps Cross hospital, largest hospital in the Association's area. DR. BALME, who was to propose, with apt quotations from Oscar Wilde, Robert Louis Stevenson and unnamed poets the toast of the ladies, first acknowledged the debt of his profession to that of pharmacy. The modern drugs pharmacy provided, he said, were able, unlike those of earlier times, to alter a prognosis. "Sometimes even for the better." The ladies had an able spokesman in the chairman's wife, MRS. M. NEWBERRY, who — not herself a pharmacist — displayed a considerable acquaintance with pharmacists' problems — gained, it was learned, by regular attendance at meetings of the Association and Board. A tombola in aid of Birdsgrove House realised £61 10s.

NORTH LONDON

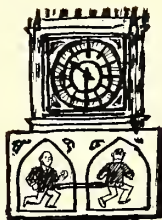
"Second Reading" Speech

A RECORD guest list of 304, including quite a few students, at the annual dinner of the North London Pharmaceutical Association on February 14 would have made the occasion distinguished enough, but there were two other claims to distinction. One was that this year's chairman, MISS ANNE FELTON, was the third generation of North London presidential Feltons, her grandfather — first of the three — having been one of the Association's founders. Second feature of note was that, in responding to the toast of the Pharmaceutical Society, the president, Mr. Allen Aldington, (incidentally a member of the Association) was able to time his comments on "a new charter for pharmacy" — the Medicines Bill — to the precise moment at which the Second Reading debate on it was commencing in the House of Commons. The Bill would govern the practice of pharmacy, he said, for the next few decades. The majority of the 119 clauses reflected the policy and philosophy of the Society. The Council recognised that there were defects in the Bill, and during the next two or three months it would use what influence it had to remove them.

"We applaud the intention of the Bill, and especially one important principle that is enshrined within it: that medicines should be obtainable only from pharmacies. This represents a substantial step forward in establishing the authority of the pharmacist and safeguarding the public from the effects of its own ignorance." The public must be taught to seek the pharmacist's advice upon the safe use and storage of the potent medicines of the age. Pharmacists must strive to inculcate in the public a sense of responsibility, which was the only antidote to the rash of accidental poisoning which now disfigured the health scene.

Dinner and speeches over, members were quick to take the opportunity to buy tombola tickets to the tune of £75 which, with £100 collected beforehand by the efforts of committee members, went to pharmaceutical charities.

IT WAS AT 10.30 P.M. while the President was speaking, that the **MEDICINES BILL** WAS GIVEN ITS SECOND READING. HE WAS ADDRESSING THE DINERS AT THE



NORTH LONDON

PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION

DINNER DANCE

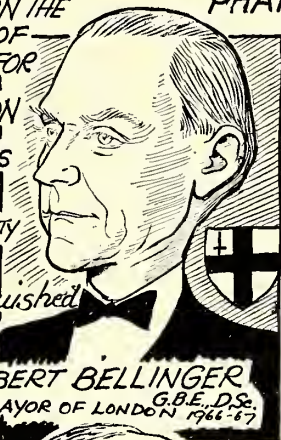
15th FEB 1968

DES LEWIS
SECRETARY
PHARMACEUTICAL
SOCIETY

"A NEW CHARTER
TO GOVERN THE
PRACTICE OF
PHARMACY FOR
DECADES"
ALLEN ALDINGTON
NOW KNOWN IN
SOME QUARTERS AS
'BILL' ALDINGTON
PRESIDENT OF THE
PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY

Distinguished
Guest

SIR ROBERT BELLINGER
G.B.E., D.S.
LORD MAYOR OF LONDON 1966-67



G. GEYMAN
BRANCH TREASURER
CONTROLS THE CASH



JOHN ILES
BRANCH SECRETARY



BRENDA
EDWARDS



MICHAEL CROWE
CHAIRMAN
LOCAL N.P.U.

BEWARE
DRUG
AMNESTY

JOE WRIGHT
SECY
N.P.U.

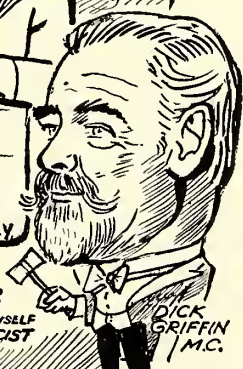


STUDENT
CONTACT
PLAN
IAN WILLIAMS
16th YEAR
STUDENT AT
THE SQUARE



SOCIAL SECRETARY

JOHN EDWARDS
MAKE MYSELF
PHARMACIST



DICK GRIFFIN
M.C.

THERE'S ALWAYS
BEEN A FELTON
IN THE BRANCH
THIRD GENERATION
ANNE FELTON
BRANCH CHAIRMAN

C&D
ARTIST
H41

HOSPITAL PHARMACY FORUM SAINSBURY v. DUNLOP

By a HOSPITAL PHARMACIST

OUTSIDE the ranks of hospital pharmacy Sainsbury's bold and imaginative, if somewhat controversial, proposal to abolish proprietary names for drugs and medicines has found little or no influential support, and it is possible that no more will be heard of it.

Not unexpectedly, the pharmaceutical industry has declared its uncompromising opposition to the proposal, and the industry now seems to have found a staunch supporter in the person of Sir Derrick Dunlop. Speaking at the third conference of Scottish hospital pharmacists held recently in Dunblane (see *C. & D.*, March 9, p. 308), he said that there was a mistaken belief that the active constituent was the sole basis for a drug's effectiveness. Therapeutic action was a function of formulation. When a doctor prescribed the branded product of a well-known manufacturer he could be sure that the therapeutic effect of the active ingredient had not been reduced or modified by poor formulation. The use of approved names gave him no such guarantee.

The Implication

That argument is worth close examination, because it carries the implication that the pharmacist cannot make judgments in the field in which he claims to be a specialist. It is based on the assumption that pharmacy is part of medical territory and that it is the doctor rather than the pharmacist who is the expert on the presentation of drugs as pharmaceutical preparations. More important still, it implies that the function of the pharmacist is that of a technician, whose only responsibility is to comply with the doctor's instructions and to supply what he orders.

Sainsbury's proposals did at least recognise the pharmacist as the expert in pharmacy. Had it been accepted it would have become the pharmacist's responsibility to ensure that the drug ordered was presented to the patient as an active and stable pharmaceutical preparation. After all, the whole purpose of the pharmacist's academic training is to provide him with the specialised knowledge required to make decisions of that kind, and one might therefore have expected that the Society would have come forward with unequivocal support for a proposal which recognised the pharmacist as the proper person to make them.

Unfortunately pharmacy has become almost inextricably bound up with commerce, and in consequence support for Sainsbury's proposal has been left largely to the hospital pharmacist, who sees in it an opportunity to advance his claim that pharmacy is a unique discipline in which he, rather than the doctor, is the specialist. Pharmacists employed in the hospital service have therefore worked unremittingly, and not entirely without success, to promote the use of approved names in prescribing. Their main purpose is to establish the pharmacist as the person to make pharmaceutical decisions. They argue that he can, if permitted to do so, make an important contribution to the rational and intelligent use of drugs in the treatment of disease, and they see the promotion of "off-the peg" medicines sold under brand names as a serious obstacle to progress in that direction. When prescribers use approved names the responsibility for ensuring that the patient receives a properly formulated pharmaceutical preparation rests where it surely belongs, namely with the pharmacist, and if he is not allowed to accept the responsibility it becomes increasingly difficult to justify the need for an intermediary of graduate standard between the doctor and his patient.

The pharmaceutical revolution has by no means run out of steam, and in Britain the industry is now showing in-

terest in the production of "unit packs" suitable for handing over to the patient intact. Up to now the main obstacle has been the long-standing tradition that dispensed medicines must be anonymous, but now that medical opinion is almost unanimously in favour of open labelling it cannot possibly survive much longer. The way will then be open for "original pack dispensing," in which the pharmacist's responsibility is limited to supplying the patient with a sealed package bearing the manufacturer's registered trade name.

Hospital pharmacists have not been slow to see the writing on the wall. They realise that the development of prepacked and prelabelled medicines, ready for handing over to the patient without any intervention by the pharmacist, must inevitably make it ever more difficult for him to do the job for which he was trained. If the doctor is to decide not only the drug to be administered, but also its pharmaceutical presentation, then somebody, possibly Sir Noel Hall, is bound to ask about the precise nature of the pharmacist's involvement in the transaction. Is he simply a store-keeper who hands over the appropriate package on demand, or does he bring some specialist knowledge to bear, and if so what exactly is the nature of the knowledge he has to offer?

A Last Battle

There are, it is true, many pharmacists who believe quite seriously that the battle to establish the right of the pharmacist to make decisions on pharmaceutical matters has already been lost. They argue, in effect, that the doctor, having acquired that responsibility for himself, is not likely to surrender it, and they see little point in fighting a rearguard action in which defeat is thought to be inevitable. As an alternative they recommend a re-orientation of the pharmaceutical curriculum away from pharmaceuticals and towards therapeutics. "Off-the-peg" medicines, they point out, have come to stay, and they see the pharmacist of the future as the expert who will advise the physician on the choice of the package appropriate to the condition to be treated. That point of view was also expressed by Dr. Goddard, who saw the general practitioner of pharmacy assuming the rôle of a "therapy consultant" working alongside the physician in the latter's office. The physician himself would hand over the prepackaged medicines during the consultation, but the pharmacist would be available to advise him if called upon to do so.

That picture of pharmaceutical practice assumes that the doctor who, according to Sir Derrick Dunlop, cannot trust the pharmacist to supply his patient with an active and stable preparation of the drug he wishes to be administered, will be prepared to recognise him as an expert adviser on therapeutics. It also assumes that the Ministry can be persuaded that the need for specialist therapeutic advice is such that those who provide it should be remunerated on a professional basis. The validity of those assumptions is, to say the least, open to question, and it is consequently unrealistic for pharmacists who have failed to gain recognition as experts in their own specialist field to take it for granted that it will come automatically with a change of emphasis in the curriculum.

Pharmacist's Proper Area for Decision

The abolition of proprietary names for drugs and medicines would establish the pharmacist as the proper person to make decisions in an area in which his expertise is not open to serious challenge. Is our position so untenable that we must concede defeat without even putting up a show of resistance?



C&D

CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST

For Retailer, Wholesaler and Manufacturer

ESTABLISHED 1859

Published weekly at
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TELEPHONE: 01-353 6565

"Facts, Sacrifices, Opportunities"

GIVEN that a cut of around £900 millions in national expenditure was necessary before the country's balance-of-payments deficit could be turned into a favourable balance, the Chancellor's budget is a coherent endeavour to spread the sacrifice throughout the community. The protests, at all events, seem to come from the quarters. So far as it was possible to do so the necessities of life have been spared and the deterrents to consumption put on luxuries. There may be arguments about whether the motor car is a luxury or a modern necessity, but among the goods a chemist sells the items now more heavily taxed—perfumes, cameras, projectors at the 50 per cent. rate—must be considered as fundamental to welfare than medicines, soaps and tooth-pastes and surgical sundries. Nevertheless, taken in conjunction with the increased effective employment tax (surely the least expected of the increased taxes) they present some sharp problems for the chemist. For the same amount of capital invested has more to pay in wages and receives much less profits.

"The purpose of this Budget is to present the facts, to pose the sacrifices, and provide the opportunities." Nobody can deny that Mr. Jenkins was skilful and vivid in presenting the facts in his long Budget speech. The sacrifices that have been imposed will be brought home afresh every time one's car is taken to the filling station. The opportunity—except the opportunity for the country to survive—is less apparent and was not given the same attention in the Chancellor's speech.

Capsules to Track Down

In recent proceedings in a magistrates' court at Stanley, Durham (see p. 254), Intercontinental Pharmaceutical (Bletchley), Ltd., London, were able to convince the sitting magistrates that there was no case to answer in a prosecution concerning the supply of ampoules labelled ampicillin but found on analysis to contain potassium penicillin V. Costs of £210 were awarded against the prosecution, Durham County Council. The capsules had been supplied to a local doctor on an order from the company's local representative and had arrived bearing the label of a company of similar title but with an address in Eire. The Bletchley company, said its spokesman in court, was an entirely different entity from the Irish company, though they had interlocking connections. "We did not sell the stuff. This is the offence with which we are charged."

So the Bletchley company did not effect the sale. But is that the end of the matter? The Durham County analyst said that he had carried out various tests and was satisfied that the capsules contained potassium penicillin V and not ampicillin. So some capsules are extant in the area that are masquerading as ampicillin when they are really something else. How many? And in whose hands? Chemists and doctors in the area — and, indeed, in all areas — should take steps to satisfy themselves that, if they hold stocks of ampicillin tablets they are what they purport to be. Otherwise there may be a risk of prescriptions being incorrectly dispensed.

No doubt, too, though Durham County Council may be reluctant to risk having to pay a second time costs on the scale awarded, it ought to be somebody's responsibility to try and check that any wrongly labelled capsules that may still be in circulation are recalled and replaced with the genuine article.

Science Teachers and Industry

It is difficult to assess at the present time the success or otherwise of the conference "Modern Science in Industry" (see p. 267). Only the proverbial time will tell.

At least the conference was a sincere and, we would imagine, a fairly expensive exercise in public relations by the chemical industry. It was designed to show the teaching profession the kind of research and development work carried out by the various sections of the second largest industry in the country. On two of the four days there were three streams of specialist addresses, and it was therefore not possible for a delegate to attend all the lectures (though of course it was unlikely that any one delegate would wish to do so). On the third day time was, by request, made available for the audience to have its say and, as may be imagined, there was no lack of speakers of a class in whom eloquence is almost a professional *sine qua non*. Indeed the quality of delivery of those taking part proved to be in sharp contrast with that of some of the specialist sessional authors. For the most part the schoolmasters saw the solution to the industry's failure to recruit enough scientifically trained entrants as the expenditure of more money on this and that project. Several, however, deplored the fact that research programmes were often directed into channels most likely to produce a profit for the shareholders. How the industry was to get the money to finance the schoolmasters' many and varied schemes was never mentioned—nor, at that session at least, did any of the speakers acknowledge that the industry had financed the conference itself at which they were present as guests.

An outside observer might be pardoned for concluding that the industry's image, described as "tarnished" by one of the teachers, can hope for little improvement until further advances have been made in effective communication between the two sides. At least a significant step forward has been made.

"SIMILARLY, the *Chemist and Druggist* has information useful far beyond its acknowledged prime interest of general practice, so it is suggested that, if you are a pharmacist, and haven't lately seen the *C. & D.*, make a point of looking through one, and the diary and year-book, which some consider to be worth the subscription for themselves." — *Synapse* (bulletin of the Newcastle District and Northumberland Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society).



"OPEN SHOP"

An unscripted commentary on the special problems of the pharmacist in general practice

By E. C. TENNER

NOW this is a quite ridiculous situation. A few days ago I was presented with a prescription for a tablet in which the substance was described by its official name. This name was unknown to me and to a colleague who was in the dispensary at the time. We therefore consulted the following reference works: Martindale; the British National Formulary; the Pharmaceutical Society's card index; *Mims*; an old copy of Medindex which had a cross-reference section, and all were a complete blank on the problem. I then contacted the doctor—none too easy on a Saturday afternoon—but all he could tell me was that he had received a letter from a specialist quoting the official name, which he had used on the prescription. The next possibility was to contact the hospital. Have you ever tried getting any sense out of a hospital on a Saturday afternoon? I also pondered on the possibility of help from the information services at Mallinson House, Bloomsbury Square and Essex Street, all useful when they are open, but again no help on Saturdays. So what to do? I took a chance and appealed to the patient for help, surely a fine state of affairs. In this I had the good fortune to be dealing with an intelligent young woman and not, as so easily could have been the case, a child messenger. I carefully explained to her this stupid system of dual naming of drugs and asked her if she would be able to recognise the proprietary name of the item, and also elicited the condition that was being treated in order to attempt to narrow the field of choice. She told me that it was possible that if I could suggest the name she might be able to recognise it and that it was a very new substance, which was being evaluated at the hospital concerned. I then had a real stroke of luck, for about a week previously the medical representative of a certain firm had called on me for probably the first time in at least two years, and as he was leaving had casually mentioned that we might get some prescriptions for a new product of his firm which was being tested at the hospital concerned; naturally he used the proprietary name. I therefore took a chance and suggested that name to the patient and breathed several sighs of relief when she recognised it. Now this story must have a moral, for it cannot enhance our status in the eyes of the public that two pharmacists are incapable of interpreting a perfectly clearly and legibly written prescription, and I would put it to you that the best and most sensible way of dealing with the problem is to abandon this totally unnecessary dual naming, as indeed was suggested in a recently published report which recommended that trade names should be banned and only official names used in future. I would differ with this suggestion only in that it suggests banning the wrong names. To me an easily spelled, easily written, easily remembered trade name, usually quickly linked with the maker, is much to be preferred to the long, unpronounceable, difficult-to-remember and totally undescriptive results of the efforts of those responsible for the production of official names.

Are the Wholesalers Slipping?

Recently I read an article by an old acquaintance of mine, Mr. Leaver, in which he quite naturally extolled the virtues of the pharmaceutical wholesalers, and warned us of the impossible situation for pharmacy if, for any reason, the wholesaling service collapsed. I entirely agree with him. I have no knowledge of any other group of business people who are better served than are pharmacists by their

wholesalers. Nevertheless, in nearly forty years' experience I feel that recently the wholesale service has just about reached its lowest ebb. It is now very much the exception to receive an order that is not in some way faulty (wrong sizes, wrong quantities or wrong items altogether). Or we can only assume that as in the retail, the wholesalers are proving incapable of attracting the right quality of staff and that orders are no longer checked before despatch. We are at present completing the National Pharmaceutical Union form listing errors on wholesalers' invoices received during January. The results indicate that we are well repaid for the time spent in carefully checking our invoice. I have recently had circular letters from two wholesalers imploring pharmacists in general to pay their accounts more promptly. To both of them I have suggested that this largely depends on themselves, for to pay a February account by March N.P.U. clearing depends on the wholesaler rendering his invoices much quicker than at present and achieving such a high standard of pricing that we dares not pass the invoices for payment without scrupulous checking. I would also suggest that the wholesalers could give more attention to the prompt issuing of credit notes to clear up faulty invoices that have been returned to them.

Almost Too Successful

In many ways I must regret the break which is to take place between the N.P.U. and Maws Pharmacy Products Ltd. The original conception of that relationship was most attractive, and we must not in any way blame Maws for apparently being unable to cope with such a rapid expansion as we have seen with N.P.U. products, an expansion which we must all use every endeavour to make even greater. There can be little doubt that the main difficulty which Messrs. Maw have had to face has been that of achieving prompt deliveries. In my own case I have known it to take as long as ten days to cover less than thirty miles. What a pity for the company and indeed for all of us that there is no longer any form of reliable transport services in this country.

SHOP TOPIC—3

Make Your Window A Magnet

COMPLEX as are the country's economic problems, your task as the proprietor of a pharmacy is still comparatively simple. How can you make sure of your share of whatever money is in the wallets and purses in your own High Street? Have you, for example, asked yourself whether your window is really doing its job? Have you even asked what its job is?

When you glanced along the street this morning, how many people were actually looking in the windows of a shops? Why should they? Did items in the displays, or the displays themselves, have novelty, topicality, attractive appearance, special usefulness, or other interest? If several people were gripped by one window, probe the secret of its success.

Money Value

How effective is your own window? What is its monetary value to you? Measure the area of your shop front ele-

tion and then inquire what that area would cost on a local hoarding. My view is that your window is worth three times as much if it is really put to work. Why? Its contents are three-dimensional, not flat. If it prompts an impulse to buy—the shop's right there. It can be lit up when dusk comes—and after hours as well. It's not difficult to change the window entirely, and very easy to change a part.

The publicity value of a hoarding depends on the number of passers-by. The potential of your window depends on how many people stop to look at it in a week. How many do? Next time your window is dressed, don't go outside to admire it. Instead, watch discreetly from across the street the number of people whose attention it catches. In how many cases is their attention held long enough to show that interest has been generated?

The specific selling purpose of a window display should obviously be decided before the actual window dressing starts. To attract the maximum attention of passers-by will always be your object. But that is only a beginning. Beyond it are many choices.

The window display can try to indicate the whole stock-range of the shop. It can give an extra fillip to lines that

are selling well. It can press lines with the widest margin. It can push stock that is "sticking." It can promote new lines. It can be wholly used for the products of one manufacturer. You take your choice!

The idea being sold at any time would be represented by a central exhibit, occupying (say) a quarter of the window space. The theme of the central exhibit would appear in bold words on a showcard. It might be 'Choose soaps that are kind to your skin,' or 'See these aids to finger-nail elegance.' The base and sides of window would show representative items to indicate the stock-range and these would, of course, be changed periodically.

Items of merchandise would be chosen to illustrate the theme of the current central exhibit. The more often the central exhibit was changed, the more chance that those who passed regularly would think your window always worth a glance. Good lighting and bright colours would make it gay, cheerful, inviting.

Remember. If your window is not winning attention and interest it can be changed and changed again until it does. Then it will be a magnet, drawing people and business into your shop.

STANLEY TOWNSEND

Pharmacy in Victorian Edinburgh

MR. C. G. DRUMMOND TRACES INFLUENCES OF THE 1868 ACT

SUBJECT of an evening meeting arranged by the Scottish Department of the Pharmaceutical Society and held in Edinburgh on January 18 under the chairmanship of Alexander Cowan was 'Pharmacy and Medicine in Victorian Edinburgh'. Speaker was Mr. C. G. DRUMMOND, who, as Mr. Cowan rightly said was well known in a number of aspects of pharmaceutical affairs and particularly as a pharmaceutical historian.

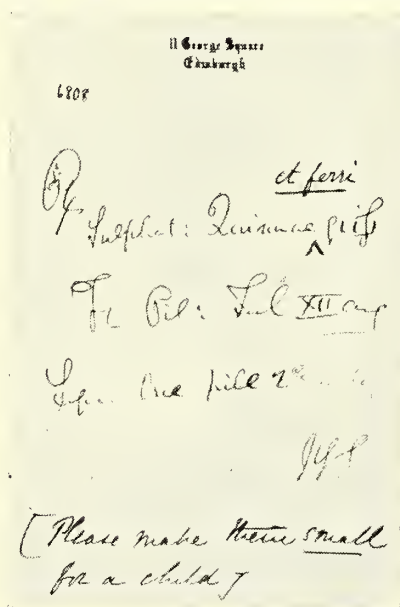
Dr. W. A. Alexander (a former president of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh and former president of the Scottish Society of the History of Medicine) in proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Drummond, recalled that he himself had been an assistant of Sir Thomas Fraser, who had introduced strophanthus in the treatment of heart conditions.

Mr. C. G. Drummond said it was his intention to concentrate mainly on the scene one hundred years ago.

The year 1868 was an important one for pharmacy in Great Britain, for in that year an Act was passed which determined the pattern of pharmacy for a long time. It provided for the setting up of a register to which admission would thenceforth be confined to those who had passed a qualifying examination, and gave powers to the Pharmaceutical Society to examine and register, and to set standards of education and qualification.

Two Categories

The legislation enacted in 1868 made provision for the registration of two special groups: all those who were in business when the Act became operative, and assistants who had had three years' experience. "But nature . . . is not without a sense of humour." As late as 1939 there was still one member who had become registered in that way, on December 1 of that year there died, at Hornsea, Arthur Richard Owen, aged ninety-one. A certificate of registration on view in the Hall that



A prescription of the 1860's. The added plea, "Please make them small for a child," seems to betoken an irrational faith in the pharmacist's skill.

evening (normally exhibited in the Victorian pharmacy upstairs) was as far as the speaker was aware, the only one of its kind. It stated that, by a declaration according to Schedules C and D of the 1868 Act, John Erskine was registered as a Chemist and Druggist—a status he held for forty-seven years.

In Edinburgh in 1868 overcrowding and lack of sanitation were acute. The City's first medical officer, Dr. (later Sir) Henry Littlejohn, was appointed after a public outcry in 1861, effected improvements at every opportunity, but poor conditions persisted for many years. Doctor and pharmacist, therefore particularly in the older parts of the city, were faced with a gigantic battle with inadequate weapons. What

was expected of the pharmacist by the physician of the day? An examination of prescription books of the period disclosed few preparations unfamiliar to those of the speakers own and even later generations. Present-day pharmacists might be puzzled with tinct. cort. laticis, and Prussian powder might be difficult for anybody unaware that it was another name for compound liquorice powder to locate. Of two entries on one page each calling for dr. 2 of potassium cyanide, the first was to remove stains, and the second to remove a cat.

Despite the presence of manufacturing chemists in the city—Duncan, Flockhart, J. F. Macfarlan and Raimes, Blanshard of Leith—the pharmacy itself was still the scene of considerable small-scale manufacture. Crude drugs were purchased, pounded and sifted, and tinctures were made by transferring the powdered ingredients to a vessel—frequently the large black bottles found in all pharmacies at that time—adding the alcohol, and allowing maceration to proceed until such time as the hand-bottle required replenishing. Fresh infusions were set on first thing each morning, "and only those who have experienced it know of the pleasing and distinctive odour which was part and parcel of the pharmacy." Syrups were made on the premises, and considerable physical exertion was called for in the making of pills by the gross and ointments by the stone, with no aid other than a mortar and pestle and a strong arm.

Cheroots in the Prescription Book

The prescription book from which he had been quoting, said Mr. Drummond belonged to a pharmacy in the south side of the city in a residential area. It served also as a day-book, and the pages devoted to credit sales showed that cigars and cheroots formed part of the stock in trade.

Most pharmacies of the time resembled the Victorian pharmacy re-

constructed in the Society's House at 36 York Place, with "runs" of shop rounds and handsome drawers, beautifully labelled. An index of the stock kept in one pharmacy named the barks of cascarilla, poppy capsules, uvae ursi leaves, the gums of ammoniacum, benzoin, ca'echu, galbanum and opium, manna, quassia and the roots of anchusa, arnica, calumba, chiratta, gentian, rhubarb and valerian, together with seeds of cardamom, coriander and mustard. In a circular, James Burnet, of Ramsay Lane, begged to draw attention in his price list to the fact that, from his long experience, tasteful execution of work and moderate charges, combined with despatch and punctuality, he had every confidence, etc. . . . The books of one pharmacy disclosed that sixty bottles were sent to Mr. Burnet on April 3 along with sixteen pots, on April 7, twenty-eight bottles and twenty pots. Four days after the dispatch of the sixty bottles they were back in the pharmacy duly labelled, and the whole job was completed by the sixteenth. The druggist settled his account in full the following day.

Other items in the ledger indicated a considerable trade in "patent" medicines—Powell's balsam of aniseed, Stedman's teething powders, a description which prompted a firm with a similar product to exhort its customers to ask for "double E", Holloway's ointment, Beecham's pills, Eno's Fruit Salt and Mother Siegel's syrup amongst them.

An advertisement in *The Courant* warned the people of Scotland to beware of spurious imitations of Beetham's hair fluid. T. & H. Smith were in the field for Codeia lozenges, which had "a remarkable effect in allaying cough and irritation of the throat and chest."

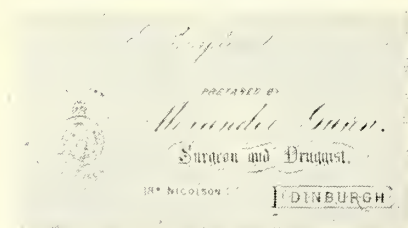
Powders and Pills

Another prescription book of roughly the same period, belonging to the firm of Duncan, Flockhart & Co., and coming from the Princes Street pharmacy, was carefully and neatly indexed. Powders and pills predominated. The only preparations "governed by the possessive" were Henry's magnesia, Bow's liniment, Fleming's tincture of aconite, Griffith's mixture, Fowler's solution and the pills of Drs. Plummer and Hamilton, Junior. Leeches were in frequent demand. "We should, perhaps, before leaving pharmaceutical and prescribing habits of the period, spare a thought for Mrs. Matheson's baby:

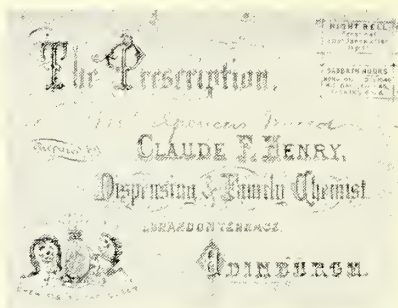
R Castor Oil
Turpentine

of equal parts — send 2 fl. oz.

Sig: Two teaspoonfuls nightly.



Prescription envelope of a "surgeon and druggist."



Prescription envelope of Claude F. Henry, "from Duncan, Flockhart & Co." The top right-hand corner promises "Night Bell—personal attendance after 11 p.m." and "Sabbath Hours—morning 10 to 10.45; mid-day, 1 to 1.45; evening 6 to 8."

Perhaps we should now look at the distribution of pharmacies in the city. On the occasion on which I explored the practice of pharmacy in Georgian Edinburgh, about half-a-century before the 1868 Act, there were listed 70 pharmacies. At that time no fewer than forty-three out of the seventy named chemists, druggists and apothecaries were still practising surgery. The directory of 1867-68 listed seventy pharmacies. The following year there were fourteen more—"partly due, I have no doubt, to the recognition of those who had taken advantage of the registration conditions." Of the seventy pharmacies, fewer than a dozen remained today—one in North Bridge, until recently bearing the historic name of Duncan, Flockhart; one at 2 Grange Road, at one time owned by T. G. Stoddart, who owned also the pharmacy in Grassmarket with which I had a long connection. The Grange Road pharmacy had a spell under the banner of J. F. Macfarlan. There was also a pharmacy in in Elm Row, whose title still retained the name of its founder, Robert Lindsay, though the branch in St. Andrew Square had disappeared. Another, owned by T. Fairgrieve in Clerk Street, was still in operation, as were three in what was at that time the separate burgh of Leith—Duncan Flockhart & Powell in Bernard Street, Smith & Wilson in Charlotte Street and Smith & Bowman at 3 Duke Street. There were famous names in that list of 1868—Baidon, 73 Princes Street; Gardner & Ainslie, 58 George Street; J. F. Macfarlan, already mentioned; John Robertson, 35 George Street; Scott & Orr, Dundas Street and John Mackay, 119 George Street. Of unusual interest was John Cochran, 503 Lawnmarket, the last of the surgeon-druggists, who continued to practise until 1880 in a pharmacy established in 1700.

A Five-year Apprenticeship

A young assistant at that time was, along with many others, apprenticed at the age of fourteen for a period of five years. His ordinary working hours were from 7.30 a.m. to 10 p.m., including Sundays, though he was considered fortunate to be granted alternate Sundays to himself. The masters in Edinburgh had been petitioned for shorter hours with little success, and only six years earlier the assistants and apprentices sought the help—readily granted

—of the physicians and surgeons in Edinburgh in their endeavour (*C. & D.*, January 6, p. 9).

In 1868 official pharmacy in Scotland was the province of the North British Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society, and none was better fitted than John Mackay, the honorary secretary, to explain the new legislation. A meeting was held at St. George's Hall, at that time the headquarters of the Society in Scotland—rented, incidentally, at £30 per annum from the secretary, John Mackay himself, put in so much work at the time of the passing of the Act that his colleagues felt that the post should no longer be honorary, but John Mackay resolutely refused to accept payment, though he was finally prevailed upon to accept a presentation.

Words of 1868

In a comprehensive address entitled "Some remarks on 'An Act to Regulate the Sale of Poisons and to amend the Pharmacy Act of 1852,'" Mackay said:

It is undoubted that the heavy clouds which have for so long shrouded and obscured pharmaceutical education are gradually but surely breaking, and that the sun of progression is already commencing to gild with its bright and gladdening rays our scientific horizon, until ere long dullness and darkness will be entirely dispelled under the brightening effect of the full orb of pharmaceutical chemistry, thus giving position and power throughout the full range of pharmaceutical science." A remarkable tribute to the advent of compulsory pharmaceutical education and examination from one who had himself left school and commenced apprenticeship at the early age of twelve.

Mr. Drummond closed with a further excerpt from the same address:

BUT if it be true that we are thus, on the one hand, to have increased power and position, we must never forget that with these come increased responsibility and that according as we conduct our selves, we may hope to gain the confidence of the public, the respect of the medical colleges and the satisfaction of knowing that the years of labour have not been spent in vain."

Those words of 1868, he said, had a place in pharmacists' lives in this year of grace 1968. "We must keep the faith."

EQUIPMENT

Simple Accounting System.—Adle Office and Electronic Machines, Ltd. 140 Borough High Street, London S.E.1, offer their "all-electronic" Adle Factura 400 to give "a faster invoice output, plus instant analysis." After completing the day's invoice tally, the operator is able to give breakdowns by product type, at the touch of a button. The company claim that a copy typist, after a few hours instruction can handle the Factura 400. Which apart from invoicing and analysis will cope with statements, ledgers, credit control, stock valuations, complex calculations (e.g. currency conversion) plus a host of other accounting functions. Readers are invited to write to the company for more details concerning the Factura 400.

Modern Chemistry in Industry

(Concluded from THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, March 16, p. 232)

CHEMICAL workers in industry have scope not only to increase the availability of insulin by synthesis but also to provide simplified analogues free from sensitising impurities, said DR. FRANK HARTLEY (dean of the School of Pharmacy, University of London) in an address "Steroids and Hormone Products" to the conference on March 12. The next decade was likely, he said, to see many such developments.

Potentialities of the Insulin Market

At a time when the world market was likely to be worth £5-6 million a year, British manufacturers ought to be going all out in research in the field. Much needed yet to be learned about the control of carbohydrate metabolism and the full effects of insulin therapy so as to avoid the long-term complications of retinopathy, susceptibility to infections and damage to extremities. He did not underestimate the difficulties, but if Britain did not press ahead with research and development other countries would do so. He was sure a solution could be found if the same effort were to be applied as had been used in some products offering a much smaller market potential.

Earlier Dr. Hartley had said that British production of insulin to meet home and export demands valued was currently at well over £500,000 a year. It could be higher if all diabetics in the Commonwealth were treated as they could be in Britain. Future developments might well depend on synthetic production of the peptide, of which the structure had been determined by the Nobel-laureate, Sanger, at Cambridge, and of which the synthesis had now been shown by workers in the U.S., Canada and China to be possible.

Steroid and hormone products like the antibiotics and the so-called psychotropic substances had led to the advances in therapeutics by which the practice of medicine had been revolutionised in the past few decades. Together they largely accounted for the rate of growth of the pharmaceutical industry, now a significant branch of the chemical industry, not only in respect of turnover but also, as the Sainsbury report had shown, in return on capital employed.

Adrenaline, thyroxine, insulin, and cortisone and other steroids, had first been isolated by academic workers and subsequently manufactured by industry, but many "improvements" of them had been both discovered and manufactured by industry. Steroid chemistry had afforded opportunity for many chemists to gain both training in research methods in academic institutions and to obtain their higher degrees, and scope for skill and responsibility in industry. The hormones and steroids offered challenging work for chemists of all kinds: organic, biochemical, physical-chemical and analytical. Advances in the field were likely to arise in the next decade or so from

developments in molecular biology and protein chemistry. The industrial potential of that field was still considerable: it was even greater in the development and production of new medicinal products as a whole.

A questioner asked if schools of pharmacy should not be transferred to colleges of further education, since the schools "seemed concerned only with training pupils for chemists' shops;" should they not be replaced in universities by schools of pharmacology? DR. HARTLEY replied that the questioner was misunderstanding the present function of schools of pharmacy. They not only trained pharmacists for distribution but were concerned with providing an understanding of the action and possible uses of drugs. At their highest level the schools of pharmacy were successfully integrating instruction in the chemistry and biology of drugs with their physical applications and properties.

Discovery of New Drugs

Speaking on the "Discovery of New Drugs," DR. M. WEATHERALL (head of the therapeutic research division, Wellcome Research Laboratories), said that it took a long time to discover a really new kind of drug and to develop it until a useful therapeutic substance emerged. "But the long way round is often the shortest way home. Indeed, without exceptional luck, it may be the only way home." From a commercial point of view, money spent on basic research was a capital investment. It called for courage and confidence to divert any proportion at all of hard-earned profits to research if it had no prospect of providing a return in less than five years and might never pay off at all. That kind of research was equally, apart from sheer luck, the only effective way of making major advances in pharmacotherapeutics; if the research were not done in the industry, it would not be done at all.

The discovery of new drugs depended very much on inspired empiricism, to which both chemists and biologists contributed. The choice of compounds for investigation was most difficult. It was rare for the first synthetic drug of any series to remain pre-eminent indefinitely in its field, and many good drugs had been improved by further modification. On the other hand excessive multiplication of a series had commonly brought more confusion than benefit to therapeutics, and had emphasised the wasteful aspects of a competitive industrial system. Whatever line was followed, a successful active substance would need to be made on an industrial scale if it were to be made available as a drug. To demonstrate activity in a substance that could be made only in minute quantities by a long and elaborate synthesis had not much immediate commercial application, however great the theoretical interest. It took much longer to investigate the biological ac-

tivity of a compound or a series than to make the compounds.

"Screening" remained an obvious and necessary procedure but it had two potentially disastrous consequences, both most likely to occur when experienced and critical biologists were in short supply. One was that supervising the "screens" became the main preoccupation of a biological department, to the exclusion of other research into the ways in which drugs acted. The other and more serious was that wrong screens came to be used, with the result that the laboratory test employed failed to detect substances that had the desired therapeutic activity. False positives were weeded out anyway at later stages, but "there is not much evidence on which to assess the trustworthiness of particular screening procedures."

Difficult to Change Course

A public and an industry both frightened by thalidomide were most anxious to be reassured that drugs were properly tested for safety, so the tests and the rules for testing multiplied expensively and sometimes mindlessly. The pathologist could become as preoccupied with *ad hoc* toxicity testing as the pharmacologist with screening, and in the long run scarce skills were dissipated on jobs of temporary importance.

Research workers engaged in the discovery of new drugs were mainly chemists, biologists, veterinarians or doctors. The factors that determined which career a man adopted had generally operated by the time he was about eighteen. The forces which later brought him into clinical medicine or academic research or industrial research operated especially about the time he took his main degree or degrees in his early twenties. After that he was fairly trapped in a career. He could change courses — for instance from industry to academic life — but only at some risk to his prospects (and probably to his superannuation). So most people did not change, and there was a gap between pharmaceutical research workers and academic pharmacologists on the one hand and clinical research workers on the other. That gap was concealed by friendly association at casual meetings, but it was also filled by the kind of misunderstandings normal between people who did not often meet and did not work jointly on their common problems.

It was easier to follow lines of research that were obviously related to potential products than to make a case for more speculative activity, but that did not mean that no basic research was done in the pharmaceutical industry. The practising clinician was also subject to pressure to use new or new-looking products, even in circumstances in which existing remedies were moderately satisfactory. Part of that pressure came from the industry; part from patients and part from the doctor himself. "We all want good

drugs as quickly as possible, and bad drugs not at all. As a compromise we get a variety of drugs, some splendid and some indifferent," the speaker concluded.

Asked how long clinical trials of a new drug took, DR. WEATHERALL said it was impossible to be specific. All depended on such circumstances as who was administering the drug and for what purpose it was being used.

Research Projects

The question how research projects were chosen was carried a stage further by DR. F. N. WOODWARD (Arthur D. Little Research Institute) who dealt in particular with the chemical industry. Dr. Woodward said that, in the selection of research topics in the industry, the prime responsibility of a board of directors of a public company—to produce a profit for shareholders—had to be borne in mind. Disregard of that simple basic fact had much to do with the current economic plight of the country.

No simple answer to the problem how to choose research projects was to be found in examining the origins and development of previous chemical "winners." However, the largest number of successes, commercially speaking, appeared to have resulted from deliberate attempts to produce a product with clearly defined properties ("that is, oriented research"), though nylon, penicillin, polyethylene and transistors had resulted from basic research, initially without definable objective, undertaken at great expense. Some idea of the ratio of successes or failures could be gathered from experience in the United States where, in a study of 540 ideas evaluated at the research department level, ninety-two had been rejected in the initial screening procedure, 448 eliminated in conferences to consider new product suggestions, ninety-two selected for preliminary laboratory study, eight found sufficiently promising to warrant development projects, seven dropped at the semi-works stage, and only one had survived as a commercial product.

Much thought was currently being given to forecasting techniques applicable to research, the most important being "technological forecasting." That involved both "exploratory technological forecasting" which started from today's assured basis of knowledge and was orientated towards the future, and "normative technological forecasting," which assessed future goals, needs, desires, missions, etc., first and worked back to the present.

Speakers at the second plenary session of the conference were asked to curtail their addresses in order to provide time for the "floor" to discuss the aims and objects of the conference and how they had been fulfilled up to that point. By request of the platform most of the time was given over to schoolmasters, about sixteen taking the opportunity to speak. They were followed by three speakers from universities. First schoolmaster was disappointed that no speaker from his profession had been called on to give one of the addresses. He believed science

graduates were paid less than arts graduates, so parents could not be blamed if they dissuaded their children away from science. Industry could put the matter right by paying salaries higher than or at least equal to those received by arts graduates. He also suggested the industry should consider (1) setting up a small working party; (2) bringing industry into schools by means of film loops; (3) supporting students' conferences; (4) organising sixth-form conferences to encourage discussion; and (5) keeping up the flow of information about in-

dustry through existing media. The theme of speeches from other schoolmasters was similar, their suggestions ranging from more grants by industry to students (or to established teachers wishing to transfer to science and take a degree) and an appeal for industrialists to join boards of governors of schools. A few Scottish speakers suggested that there was no drift away from science in Scotland, where a pupil could delay his final decision on what subjects he should read until a much later stage than his counterpart in England and Wales.

NEW SERVICES FOR N.P.U. MEMBERS

Decisions by the Union's Executive Committee

AT its monthly meeting in London on February 27, the Executive Committee of the National Pharmaceutical Union received reports from its three new sub-committees, which had met that afternoon for the first time. The Executive's chairman (MR. H. G. MOSS) had previously referred with great pleasure to the award by the Pharmaceutical Society of a Charter gold medal to the Union's treasurer (MR. W. J. TRISTRAM).

Medicines Bill

The General Purposes Committee (chairman MR. H. G. MOSS) had examined a Medicines Bill review prepared in the office in order to consider how far the Executive's comments on the White Paper had been taken into account in its drafting; it was agreed that a meeting with the Pharmaceutical Society should be held soon to exchange views on action to press for improvements to the Bill. The Committee particularly wished to see a representative from retail practice appointed to the Medicines Commission, that premises selling general-sales-list medicines should be subject to registration, and hospital and doctors' dispensaries subject to measures of control and inspection. The Committee believed that pharmacists should be added to the list of practitioners to whom manufacturers' literature in standard form would be supplied and would press for exemption from the licensing provisions for manufacturing and counter prescribing in retail pharmacies. Further consultation with the Society would deal with powers to make medicinal products under Clause 57 of the Bill.

Group Practices; Out-of-hours Deliveries

It was noted that any limitation of National Health Service contracts would require (a) a change in Section 38 of the National Health Service Act, and (b) to be shown to be in the public interest. Agreement would have to be reached by the different sections of retail pharmacy before the Ministry was approached. It was decided that that matter and the public-interest question should be discussed at a meeting, early in March, between the Pharmaceutical Society, the N.P.U., the Company Chemists' Association and the Co-operative Union, Ltd.

It was agreed that the chairman and secretary should meet the manager of the Greater London Council's depart-

ment of highways and transportation to discuss the department's out-of-hours delivery scheme. The Committee's representatives at the meeting were being recommended to request exemption for retail pharmacies on the grounds that special safeguards were necessary for drugs and medicines.

It was agreed that the secretary (MR. J. WRIGHT) should discuss with the Pharmaceutical Society (and, if then agreed, with the Home Office) a "blue-print" for the handling of unwanted drugs, and that there should be no encouragement of pharmacies to become collecting points for such drugs.

Finance

As a first step towards publicising the advantages to prospective proprietors of participating in the N.P.U. Business Purchase and Guarantee Fund, and in view of changed conditions and the changed value of money, it was resolved to make the minimum investment for non-proprietors £250 for one year, with the power to build up by instalments of £50. The monthly businesses-for-sale list of the Business Transfer Registry would be sent free to any non-proprietor so soon as £200 had been invested. Rates of interest and methods of publicity would be further considered in March.

As a new service to members it was agreed to install an automatic telephone-answering system for receiving calls after normal office hours at the Union's office.

Business Services

A very large number of orders had been received for sets of metric weights made to the N.P.U. specifications. Manufacture and stamping of the weights were proceeding according to plan, and the first deliveries were expected soon to be made. An Order legalising the additional weight values first proposed by the N.P.U. was being laid before both Houses of Parliament that week. Discussions had been taking place at which manufacturers of price-marking machines had put forward their plans; decimalising equipment had been investigated. It was hoped to place details of available machines before members later in the year. A member's suggestion to provide a day book along the lines of one he had himself designed and found useful was considered in connection with

tentative plans for a scheme of "inter-firm" exchange of business statistics. Negotiations with a typewriter manufacturer for a machine with typeface and attachments specially suitable for use in general-practice pharmacy were at an advanced stage.

Many members had expressed satisfaction with the "Family Doctor" booklet scheme, and the British Medical Association had reported a good rate of conversion of the voucher cards purchased.

PLANT AND SERVICES ON SHOW

(Concluded from THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, March 16, p. 242)

UNITED GLASS, LTD., Kingston Road, Staines, Middlesex, showed their new range of amber lightweight glass powder and other bottles.

ALUMINIUM FOILS LTD., Thorne House, Upper St. Martin's Lane, London W.C.2, were demonstrating the use of aluminium oil strip-packaging for pharmaceutical products.

LAUTIER FILS, LTD., and DALES PHARMACEUTICALS, LTD., Power Road, London, W.4, had on show their ranges of perfumes and pharmaceutical preparations.

LANCING PACKERS, LTD., Commerce Way, Lancing, Sussex, were making known their contract packing facilities for cosmetic and pharmaceutical goods.

MASSON SEELEY & Co., LTD., Somers Place, Upper Tulse Hill, London, S.W.2, demonstrated their hot pigmented foil stamping machines for printing on a variety of surfaces and shapes.

ELGA PRODUCTS, LTD., Lane End, Bucks, showed the Elga Steraskream, plastic cartridge charged with ion exchangers, and gamma-radiated; and a complete range of Elgastal de-nisers.

Stand of PEERLESS GOLD LEAF Co., LTD., Fairfield Works, Bow, London, E.3, featured dry printing of cartons; plastics containers, labels and display material by pigment colour and metal-ized stamping foils.

CONVERTEX MACHINERY, LTD., Redif- sion House, Harrow on the Hill, Middlesex, demonstrated for the first time in the United Kingdom the roller angle impulse sealer. The work table is constructed as a dis- charge conveyor belt so that, on dis- engagement of the welding head, the welded material is automatically trans- ferred to the transport equipment of the shrinkage tunnel (the Hoeller type) as shown in use). All normal PVC, polyethylene and polypropylene films of semi-tubular form (for fully sealed packages), or in flat film strips

The Committee had approved for submission to the British Productivity Council the text for a new publication on stock control in retail pharmacy. There had been wide participation in staff-training conferences in the South-west during March. Plans were well advanced for a management seminar in the autumn. A new N.P.U. publica- tion, "A Career in Retail Pharmacy," was now available to schools of pharmacy, youth employment officers and members.

(for banded packages), may be used on the sealer. Prices, according to size, range from £240 to £450.

MIKROPUL, LTD., Towerfield Indus- trial Estate, Shoeburyness, Essex, showed laboratory and production from their range of pulverising equip- ment; the Mikro-Pulsaire rotary air- lock and the Mikro crusher.

CAHN INSTRUMENT Co., LTD., 27 Essex Road, Dartford, Kent, exhibited models in their Electrobalance range, including the FA Electrobalance for automatic check weighing of tablets, capsules and similar samples.

JAMES A. JOBLING & Co., LTD., Wear Glass Works, Sunderland, showed their range of colour-coded pipettes, a new design of Gooch crucible claimed easier to clean and stack and a Pyrex chromatography column for use by science students.

ALBRO FILLERS & ENGINEERING Co., LTD., Wharf Road, Ponders End, Middlesex, showed a vacuum filling machine costing under £1,500 for bottles of up to 40-oz. capacity and a volumeter for filling of glass or plastics containers to an accuracy of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

C. H. G. JOURDAN, LTD., 27 Maddox Street, London, W.1, and WRIGHT BROTHERS (BOXMAKERS), LTD., now combined, displayed a selection of their round and other boxes for phar- maceuticals, cosmetics and toiletries. The two companies offer a comprehen- sive design service.

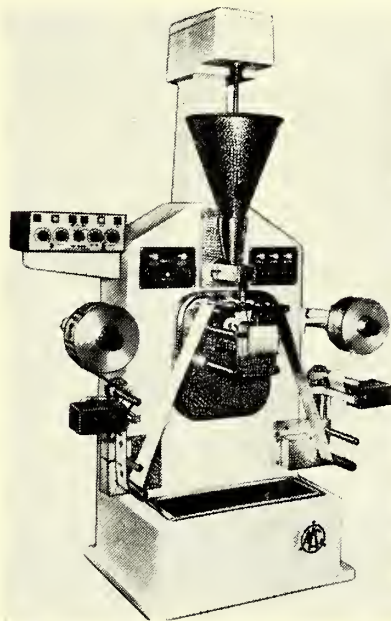
W. R. GRACE LTD., Elveden Road, Park Royal, London, N.W.10, demon- strated a range of packaging materials suitable for use in the toiletry and pharmaceutical fields including Cryo- vac V film, developed to replace cellu- lose films in certain applications (it is significantly cheaper and is unaffected by atmospheric humidity).

PENNSALT, LTD., Tower Works, Doman Road, Camberley, Surrey, showed processing and manufacturing equipment including the Viboscreen vibrating screen for multi-stage size grading; the Tornado high-speed pulverising mill; the 552 Tri-Pact tableting press with dual pre-compres- sion for high-speed production; and a Merrill tablet counter from a range coping with filling rates up to 30,000 tablets a minute.

WEIGHPACK, LTD., Estate House, Evesham Street, Redditch, Worcs, had on view a prototype Pharmapak twin- head automatic ampoule filling and sealing machine, with an estimated maximum hourly output of 6,000 and incorporating a rapid rotary system of

indexing the ampoules; and a check- weigher priced at £560 for tablets, capsules, etc.

SOAG MACHINE TOOLS, LTD., Trans- port Avenue, Great West Road, Brent- ford, Middlesex, showed additions to

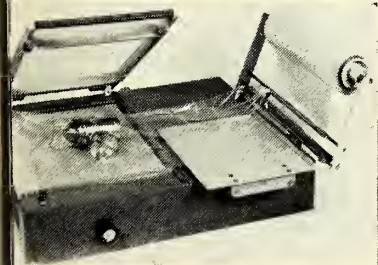


The MAC BL3 sachet machine for liquids and powders.

their Master packer range; Blisterpack machines of Italian manufacture in- cluding the hand-operated S1 (sealing surface of 220x330 mm.; frequency of 2.5 blows a minute) and the CC64 machine for automatic high-speed production (190x250 mm. packaging surface, 15-25 blows a minute). Shown in the United Kingdom for the first time was the Universak range of sachet machines for liquids and powders (standardised except in arrangements for filling).

C. I. ELECTRONICS LTD., 11 Green- close Lane, Wimborne, Dorset, showed for the first time a modular devel- opment to their automatic tablet and capsule balance, which automatically prints-out both individual and, if necessary, average tablet weights; and the Mecaplex clean work bench devel- oped by Mecaplex A.G. in conjunc- tion with Swiss universities was also shown. The bench enables laminar air flow to be adjusted so as to give hori- zontal, oblique or vertical flow at a controlled rate enabling adjustments to be made to eliminate turbulence under all conditions, and having a fil- tration efficiency of 99.99 per cent. for particles greater than 0.3 microns.

SMITH & MCLAURIN, LTD., Cartside Mills, Millikenpark, Renfrews., ex- hibited for the first time their Delseal delayed-action heat-seal paper. Extern- ally plasticised copolymers melt on heating to about 90°C. to form an adhesive layer that remains "open" for a predetermined time. The paper may be printed by letterpress, litho, small offset or gravure. Labelling with Delseal was demonstrated on a Poni Labeldri machine supplied by PACKAG- ING MACHINERY (PETERS), LTD., Slough, Bucks.



Convertex "L" sealer.

FOOD DEPARTMENT'S "NEW LOOK"

Completion of a four-year modernisation at Greenford

A £300,000 MODERNISATION scheme at the Greenford factory of Glaxo Laboratories, Ltd., is now completed. Throughout four years the introduction of automated plant into the company's foods department has been going on.

At the beginning of its history the company was known only for its baby foods, the sales of which still account for a large proportion of the company's turnover. Improvements in efficiency and output are always a top priority and the efforts of the company's research scientists and nutritionists are constantly directed towards improving existing products and introducing new foods. Today each machine in the department, manned by a team of nine women, produces more packs of Ostermilk per hour than were previously produced by twenty women packing manually, and eight women more Farex 3 cereal than were previously produced by twenty.

Piped to Packaging Hall

In the set-up as it now is the milk powder for Ostermilk is pneumatically conveyed through stainless steel pipes from the blending room to a fully air-conditioned packing hall, where a screw conveyor feeds it into the automatic weighing and packing machines. Inner plastic containers for the packs are made up from a roll of polythene tubing, outer cardboard cartons being formed around them. The cartons, glued, sealed and date-stamped, are separated into two lines and filled at two stations—up to 15 per cent. by volume at the first station, and "topped up" automatically to 16 oz. at the second. Thirty-three cartons per minute are filled on each line and any carton not containing the required quantity of Ostermilk is rejected. At subsequent stations the powder is settled into the

cartons, the polythene bag heat-sealed and folded down and a plastic scoop inserted into each carton before the tops of the cartons are folded down. The packed cartons are carried to a machine that provides a plastic outer wrap for increased protection, and packed into fibre cases of twenty-four. On the machines for processing Farex 3 cereal the ingredients—wheat, oats and maize flours plus iron, calcium vitamins B₁, B₂ and D, skim milk powder and dried yeast—are made into a thin paste with water and pumped into a battery of roller drying machines. After further processing to achieve flakes of the desired particle size. Filling and weighing operations are similar to those for Ostermilk.

The Glaxo infant and invalid foods are "sample-tasted" every day by a panel of two dozen housewives chosen

for their exceptional sensitiveness to taste. The panel assess the effect of different processes, storage and packing conditions on the flavour and odour of the products. The tasting sessions are held on three mornings and five afternoons each week and normally last about an hour. Tests generally consist of a series of comparisons between sets of samples, usually three in each set, "control" samples among them. The tasters develop flavour "memories" and are sensitive to particular "off" flavours ("stale," "tallowy," "cheesy"). They are trained to identify and describe the flavours and then to identify one in the presence of another; they also test for smell. Each series of tests is normally repeated once at least in order to improve the statistical value of the information gained.

Present plans are to extend the automatic packing facilities at Greenford during the next few weeks to include the packing of Complan and other food products.

MANUFACTURERS' ACTIVITIES

"Pads" for Cricketers.—Meeting a request from the M.C.C. touring team's physiotherapist in Barbados recently, Edward Taylor, Ltd., arranged for the immediate dispatch of a supply of adhesive sponge-rubber pads for the use of members of the team.

Chosen as Product Symbol.—Sally Ann Foley, Street, Somerset, was recently chosen Miss Gard in the finals of a competition organised by Colgate Palmolive, Ltd., 76 Oxford Street, London, W.1. Ten finalists were entertained at a London hotel, each being given a cheque for £20 and other "perks" Judging took place on February 13.

Prints for Arts Council.—A collection of thirty three "pop" prints by leading British and American artists was presented to the Arts Council of Great Britain by Ever-Ready Personna, 6 Upper St. Martin's Lane, London, W.C.2, by the company's managing director recently. The prints were received by the retiring chairman of the Arts Council's art panel. They were commissioned in 1965 as part of the company's policy of sponsoring new art forms.

Bronze Award for Film.—CIBA Laboratories, Ltd., Horsham, Sussex, announce that the CIBA film entitled "Science Against Schistosomiasis," produced in Brazil, won a bronze award in the 1967 British Medical Association film competition. The film, in colour, runs for 35 minutes. Medical direction was by J. Pellegrino. Producer was E. Sankouski, Sao Paulo. The film is available for loan to undergraduates and post-graduates studying tropical medicine (applications to the CIBA medical film library, Horsham, Sussex).

Theatrical "Coup."—A. Wander, Ltd., have booked the entertainers Morecambe and Wise for star billing at the Ovaltine spring theatre shows throughout April at Cardiff, Manchester, Bristol and Liverpool. Seats for the shows are available at half price if accompanied by an Ovaltine label (one label from ½-lb. tin = one

ticket at half price; from a 1-lb tin two tickets). Dates are: April 1 for one week: New Theatre, CARDIFF; April 8 for one week: Palace Theatre, MANCHESTER; April 15 for one week: Hippodrome, BRISTOL; April 22 for one week: Empire Theatre, LIVERPOOL.

Salvaged.—Kerodex, Ltd., 436 Essex Road, London, N.1, were called in recently to advise British Overseas Airways Corporation on how to protect the hands of their maintenance mechanics against a fire-resistant fluid used in the Corporation's Boeing 707 jets that had a reputation for causing severe skin irritation and dermatitis. Rubber gloves were out of the question because the maintenance was a precision job in a restricted space. Within fourteen days the company produced a special protective cream which the mechanics are able to use safely on hands, forearms and face, and the cream has since been adopted by many other airlines operating turbo jet aircraft. Messrs. Kerodex state that their advisory department is available to advise on the needs of all industrial organisations.



Every day a panel of tasters visits an organoleptics testing laboratory in the food research unit in order to test the effects of different processes, storage and packing conditions on the flavour and odour of products. Each member of the panel works independently, usually in coloured light so that no consideration except taste influences her judgment.



PHONE LINK-UP LAID ON: At a double wedding on February 17, one of the Good quads, Bridget, and her elder sister Susan, were married at Nettleton church, nr. Chippenham, Wilts. One of the quads, Elizabeth, is now in Massachusetts, U.S.A., but she was able to speak to her family by telephone through the assistance of Cow and Gate, Ltd., Guildford, Surrey (all the quads were brought up on Cow and Gate food).

TRADE REPORT

Prices given are those obtained by importers or manufacturers for bulk quantities or original packages. Various charges have to be added whereby values are augmented before wholesale dealers receive the goods into stock.

LONDON—MARCH 20: With the closing of the Stock Exchange and also banks (except for domestic business) together with the suspension of sales on March 15, most London commodity markets were also shut in order to take stock of the situation. Some business theoretically should not have been affected, but there was a noticeable reluctance on the part of buyers in the light of prevailing circumstances, to give firm prices for stocks which they held. If the dollar was going to be devalued, then replacement costs would be expected to soar. As a direct consequence of those developments Brazilian MENTHOL rose up 1s. 6d. lb. at origin and spot orders moved their prices by a like amount; however, Chinese material rose by sixpence. Elsewhere in CRUDE DRUGS, the price of NUXOMICA seeds advanced 10s. cwt. for the moment there being little material on spot. White Sarawak PEPPER rose one penny lb. on Continental buying and Madras TURMERIC for shipment made a gain of 2s. 6d. cwt. on the week after first being easier. BUCHU for shipment was offered in limited quantity at a range of 18s. 6d.-18s. 9d. c.i.f. (up 1s. 6d.), but there were no reports of business at that level. PERUSAM was down by threepence lb. and STYRAX by ninepence.

Among ESSENTIAL OILS Chinese white CAMPHOR was nominal in both quotations. A firm tone was maintained in Madagascar CLOVE LEAF (up sixpence lb.), Brazilian PEPPERMINT also increased sixpence lb. for shipment but spot holders only partly followed the rise.

PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMICALS were unchanged. The temporary exemption of RIBOFLAVINE from import-duty has been continued until January 1, 1969. On the industrial side OXALIC ACID has also been exempted until that date while PHTHALIC ANHYDRIDE and PHTHALENE have their exemptions extended until May 2.

Pharmaceutical Chemicals

ACETYSALICYLIC ACID.—1-ton lots, 4s. 2d. lb.; 5-cwt., 4s. 6½d.; 1-cwt., 4s. 9½d.

ASPIRIN.—50-kilo kegs, 6s. 5d. kilo; 100-lb. drums, 6s. 6d.

ACID.—B.P. grade in 1-ton and 500-lb. drums (per ton): Granular, £84; crystals, £90; powder, £90 10s.; extra-fine powder, £10s. per ton in lined hessian bags. Price paid in Great Britain. Less £1 per ton if supplied in paper bags. Technical fine £70 to £80 10s. per ton according to type and packing.

ACID.—Domestic powder in bags, cwt. 1-4 cwt. lots, 235s.; 5-19 cwt., 1 ton, 221s. Crystals plus 10s. cwt. Anhydrous powder plus 10 per cent.

PHEDRINE.—HYDROCHLORIDE, 4s. 9d. per 1,000-oz. lots.

ALLIC ACID.—B.P., 12s. 6d. per lb. for 1-ton lots; 5-cwt., 12s. 3d.

HYPOPHOSPHOROUS ACID.—B.P.C. 1959, 9d. per kilo; PURE (50 per cent.), 20s. 9d.

SALICYLIC ACID.—283s. per kilo; SODIUM, 283s. per kilo.

ACID.—B.P. £188 10s. per ton.

PHOSPHORIC ACID.—B.P. (s.g. 1.750); 16-drum, 175s. 6d. per cwt.; 54-kilo lots in bottles, 4s. 9d.

PYROGALLIC ACID.—1-cwt. photographic crystals, 29s. 3d. per lb.

SALICYLIC ACID.—5-cwt. lots, 3s. 3½d. lb.

TANNIC ACID.—B.P. fluff, 10s. per lb. (5-cwt. lots) and powder, 9s. 9d.

THIOGLYCOLLIC ACID.—Basic rates per lb. 97-98 per cent., 26-lb. packs, 15s. 6d.; 75 per cent., 11s. 6d. AMMONIUM THIOGLYCOLLATE 40 per cent., pH 9.3 (24-lb. packs), 7s.; MONOETHANOLAMINE THIOGLYCOLLATE, pH 9.9 40 per cent., 10s. 2d. All carriage paid United Kingdom and subject to purchase tax.

Crude Drugs

ANNATTO.—Madras, seed, 175s. cwt.

BALSAMS.—(per lb.). CANADA: 34s. 6d., c.i.f. (36s. spot, nominal); COPAIBA: B.P.C., 10s. 9d., c.i.f. (10s. 6d. spot); PERU: 12s. 10d., c.i.f. (13s. 3d. spot); TOLU: B.P., 13s.-14s.; genuine as imported, 41s. 6d., c.i.f.

BELLADONNA.—LEAVES, 4s. lb., c.i.f. (4s. 3d. spot); HERB, 2s. 9d., c.i.f. (2s. 9d. spot); ROOT, 1s. 10d., c.i.f. (1s. 11d. spot).

BENZON.—Sumatra block B.P.C., spot £27 per cwt.

BUCHU.—LEAVES new crop, 18s. 6d. to 18s. 9d. lb. c.i.f.

CINNAMON.—Seychelles BARK, 195s. (cwt.) spot, nominal (180s., c.i.f.). Ceylon QUILLS (c.i.f.), five 0's, 11s. 9d. lb.; four 0's, 10s. 6d.; firsts, 7s.; quillings, 5s.

CLOVES.—Zanzibar, spot 3s., 5½d. lb. (3s. 2½d., c.i.f.).

COCHINEAL.—(Per lb.). Canary Isles silver-grey, spot, 26s. (25s., c.i.f.); black brilliant, 28s. (27s. 6d., c.i.f.). Peruvian silver-grey, nominal.

GINGER.—(per cwt.). Nigerian split, 135s.; peeled, 165s. (142s. 6d., c.i.f.); Jamaican No. 3, 320s.; Cochinchina, 240s. spot (230s., c.i.f.), African, 185s., spot (150s. c.i.f.).

GUM ACACIA.—Kordofan cleaned sorts 225s. ex wharf; shipment, 202s., c.i.f.

KARAYA.—No. 2 f.a.q. gum, 220s. cwt., spot (195s., c.i.f.).

KOLA NUTS.—West African halves are 8d. per lb. on the spot; shipment, 6d., c.i.f.

LANOLIN.—ANHYDROUS, B.P. is from 2s. 2½d. to 2s. 6d. per lb. in 1-ton lots delivered free drums. Commercial grades from 1s. 4½d. and cosmetic, 2s. 8d.

LEMON PEEL.—Unextracted for shipment, 2s. 6d. lb., c.i.f.

LIQUORICE.—ROOT, Russian, dearer at 82s. 6d. cwt.; BLOCK JUICE; Anatolian, 250s. per cwt.

LOBELIA.—(lb.). Dutch, new crop, 4s. 5d., c.i.f. (4s. 3d.-4s. 6d., spot), American, 12s. 6d., c.i.f. (spot 11s. 6d.-12s.).

LYCOPodium.—No stocks.

MACE.—Grenada No. 1, new crop, 8s. 11d. lb., c.i.f.

MENTHOL.—(Per lb.). Chinese, 35s. 6d. c.i.f.; spot, 36s., in bond. Brazilian for shipment, 32s., c.i.f.; spot, 32s. 6d., in bond.

MERCURY.—Spot, £245 per flask of 76 lb., ex warehouse.

NUTMEGS.—(Per lb.). West Indian, 80's 5s. 5d.; 110's, 4s. 3d.; defectives, 2s. 7d., sound unsorted, 3s. 7d., all c.i.f.

NUX VOMICA.—Shipment, 110s. cwt., c.i.f.

PEPPER.—White Sarawak, spot 3s. 3d. lb. shipment, 3s. 1d., c.i.f.; Brazilian black grade 1, 2s. 10d., duty paid.

PIMENTO.—Shipment, 700s. cwt., f.o.b.

PODOPHYLLUM.—Emodi, 195s. cwt. (190s., c.i.f.).

SEEDS.—(Per cwt.)—ANISE.—China star afloat, 270s. landed duty paid; siftings, 240s., duty paid. CELERY.—Indian, 207s. 6d. (202s. 6d. c.i.f.). CORIANDER.—Moroccan, 132s. 6d., duty paid (116s., c.i.f.). Rumanian whole, 130s., duty paid; splits, 105s., c.i.f. CUMIN.—Iranian, 185s., duty paid (165s., c.i.f.). Syrian, 160s., c.i.f. DILL.—Indian, 165s., spot, nominal (115s., c.i.f.). FENNEL.—Chinese, 140s., duty paid; Indian, 180s. (165s., c.i.f.). FENUGREEK.—Moroccan, 107s. 6d. duty paid (85s., c.i.f.). MUSTARD.—English, 85s. to 105s. as to quality.

SENEGA.—Canadian, 31s. lb., c.i.f. (31s., spot). Japanese new crop 24s. 6d., c.i.f.; spot (old crop), 24s. 6d. in bond.

SENNA.—(Per lb.) Tinnevely LEAVES spot; Prime No. 1, 2s. 3d.; No. 3, f.a.q., 1s. 4½d.; shipment, No. 3, 1s. 4½d., c.i.f. PODS: Tinnevely hand-picked, 3s.; manufacturing, 1s. 10d. Alexandra hand-picked, spot, 5s. to 7s.; manufacturing forward, 2s. 3d., c.i.f.; spot, 2s. 6d.

SQUILL.—WHITE, 160s. cwt. (155s., c.i.f.).

STYRAX.—Spot, 21s. 6d. lb. (21s. 3d., c.i.f.).

TONQUIN BEANS.—Para, 9s. lb., c.i.f. (10s., spot); Angostura seconds, 7s. landed.

TRAGACANTH.—No. 1, £280 cwt.; No. 2, £250 spot.

TURMERIC.—Madras finger, 200s. cwt., nominal, spot; March-April shipment, 152s. 6d., c.i.f.

VALERIAN ROOT.—Indian, 315s., cwt. (310s., c.i.f.); Continental, 470s., c.i.f. (475s. spot).

Essential and Expressed Oils

ALMOND.—Spanish, 5s. 3d. lb.

AMBER.—Rectified, spot, 1s. 6d. per lb.

ANISE.—Chinese, 16s. 3d. lb.; shipment 16s., c.i.f.

BUCHU.—Spot, from 650s. per lb.

CADE.—Spanish, 2s. 3d. lb., drum lots.

CAJUPUT.—Spot from 11s. 3d. to 12s. lb.

CALAMUS.—Spot from 55s. to 60s. per lb.

CAMPOR, WHITE.—Chinese, nominal.

CANANGA.—Java, 24s. per lb.

CARAWAY.—Spot, 55s. lb.

CARDAMOM.—Imports, 500s. per lb.; English distilled, 800s.

CLOVE.—(lb.) Madagascar leaf for shipment, 12s. 3d., c.i.f. spot 12s. 9d., in bond. Rectified, 15s. Distilled bud oil English, B.P., 34s.

GERANIUM.—Bourbon, 97s.-100s. lb.

GINGER.—Imported (per lb.): Indian, 165s.; Chinese, 80s.; Jamaican, 175s.

PEPPERMINT.—(Per lb.). *Arvensis*: Chinese shipment, 10s. 3d., c.i.f.; spot 10s. 6d. Brazilian, 9s. 6d., spot; 9s. 7½d., c.i.f. American *Piperata*, 40s. to 47s. 6d.; Italian, 95s.

PETITGRAIN.—Paraguay for shipment, 17s. c.i.f., spot, 18s. per lb.

PIMENTO.—BERRY, imported, 95s.; English distilled, 390s.; LEAF, 21s. per lb.

PINE.—*Pumilionis*, 14s. 6d. to 17s. 6d. per lb., *syvestris*, 11s.; *abietis*, 20s. to 23s.

SPEARMINT.—American, 65s. lb. Chinese spot, 62s. 6d. per kilo; shipment, 60s., c.i.f.

TANGERINE.—From 39s. to 43s. 6d. lb.

UNITED STATES REPORT

NEW YORK, MARCH 19: Effective April 1, one major producer is to increase the price of pure ETHYL ALCOHOL by 4 cents per gal. for 1-17 gal. lots. There were no major price changes in CRUDE DRUGS or ESSENTIAL OILS during the week.

TRADE MARKS

APPLICATIONS ADVERTISED BEFORE REGISTRATION

"Trade Marks Journal", February 28, No. 4670

For pharmaceutical, veterinary and sanitary preparations and substances; disinfectants and antiseptics; and preparations for killing weeds and destroying vermin (5)

NOVELAN, 910,867, by C. H. Boehringer Sohn, Ingelheim-on-Rhine, Germany.

For pharmaceutical preparations and substances (5)

TEFCO, 910,984, by Warner-Lambert Pharmaceutical Co., Morris Plains, New Jersey, U.S.A.

For medicaments and pharmaceutical substances (5)

FERRLECIT, MULGATOL, 914,680-81, by A. Nattermann & Cie, G.m.b.H., 5 Köln-Braunsfeld 1, Germany.

For medicines for human being and animals (5)
DIRIAN, 915,371, by Farbenfabriken Bayer, A.G., Leverkusen, Germany.

For disinfectants; preparations for destroying vermin (5)

MOVIN, 915,809, by Farbenfabriken Bayer, A.G., Leverkusen, Germany.

For photographic preparations for local treatment of the skin (5)

SPRIHLON, 916,028, by Pharmacia, A.B., Uppsala, Sweden.

For insecticides, fungicides, herbicides and rodenticides (5)

TAMOX, 916,274, by Murphy Chemical Co., Ltd., Wheatthampstead, St. Albans, Herts.

For safety razors using flexible band type blades; and flexible band type razor blades (7)
SCHICK AUTOBAND, B899,996, by Ever-sharp, Inc., Milford, Connecticut, U.S.A.

For photographic instruments and apparatus and parts and fittings; photographic lenses (9)
FUJINON, 909,554, by Fuji Shashin Film, K.K., Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan.

For apparatus for use in still photography (9)
Device with word, STATUS, B908,312, by Lancaster & Thorpe, Ltd., Derby.

For photographic and optical apparatus and instruments; etc. (9)

HOLTRONICS, 913,901, by Holtronics, Ltd., London, S.W.5.

For optical apparatus and instruments; photographic and cinematographic apparatus and instruments; and parts and fittings (9)

MAYORAL, 915,144, by Headquarter and General Supplies, Ltd., London, S.E.1.

"Trade Marks Journal", March 6, No. 4671.

For chemical products for use in agriculture, horticulture and forestry; manures (natural and artificial) (1)

TALCORD, 915,529, by Shell International Petroleum Co., Ltd., London, S.E.1.

For sun-tanning preparations (being cosmetic or non-medicated toilet preparations) (3)

COPPATAN, B856,806, by Cooltan Laboratories, London, S.W.2.

For perfumes, non-medicated toilet preparations, cosmetic preparations, dentifrices, depilatory preparations, toilet articles, sachets for use in waving the hair, shampoos, and essential oils, but not including soaps (3)

DELICATE DAWN, 904,654, by Roux International, Ltd., Artane, Dublin, 5.

For non-medicated toilet lotions for use before and after shaving (3)

PUNCH BY DUNHILL, 907,953, by Alfred Dunhill, Ltd., London, S.W.1.

For perfumes, toilet preparations (not medicated) and toilet soap (3)

MADEMOISELLE CHANEL, 908,566, by Chanel, Ltd., Croydon, Surrey.

For non-medicated toilet preparations, cosmetics, and toilet articles; powder compacts (cosmetic) (3)

COTY SLIP-AWAY, 910,764, by Coty (England), Ltd., London, W.1.

For soaps, and non-medicated toilet preparations for the bath (3)

MORNY BEAUTY BATH, 911,181, by Morny, Ltd., Perivale, Middlesex.

For toilet waters, eau de Cologne; shaving soaps, hair creams, hair lotions; shaving creams, after shave and pre-shave lotions,

talcum powder, bath essences; bath oil, body lotions and after bath freshening preparations, all being non-medicated toilet preparations; and dentifrices; all for men (3)

JAVELIN, 911,390, by Yardley & Co., Ltd., London, W.1.

For perfumes, non-medicated toilet preparations, cosmetic preparations, dentifrices, depilatory preparations, toilet articles, sachets for use in waving the hair, shampoos, soaps and essential oils (3)

MARNA, 911,784, by Thos. Christy & Co., Ltd., Aldershot, Hants. REMINISCENCE, 913,015, by Studio Girl-Hollywood, Ltd., Havant, Hants.

For disinfectants; preparations for killing weeds and destroying vermin; pesticides and herbicides (5)

SUPALENE, 889,837, by Fisons Pest Control, Ltd., Harston, Cambs.

For medicinal preparations (5)

CHEV, 906,397, by David Benjamin Burland, Billericay, Essex.

For medicated preparations in the form of pads for external use (5)

INFRAPAD, B902,236, by British Chemotherapeutic Products, Ltd., Bradford, Yorks.

For chemical preparations for killing weeds and destroying vermin; insecticides (5)

EKTOMID, 906,562, by CIBA, Ltd., Basle, Switzerland.

For lacto-serum (5)

LE CATELET, B906,484, by Laiterie Co-operative Agricole "Valco" de Valognes (Manche), Valognes Manche, France.

For antibiotics (5)

PABLIN, 907,668, by Rona Laboratories, Ltd., London, W.C.2.

For weaning foods for infants (5)

CHUCKLES, 908,382, by A. Wander, Ltd., London, W.1.

For preparations for the making of cold cured acrylic plates for dental purposes (5)

ORTHOCRYL, 908,524, by Hawley Russell & Baker, Ltd., Potters Bar, Herts.

For medical dressings impregnated with germicidal and antiseptic solutions (disinfectants) (5)

TCP, 909,864, by Unicliffe, Ltd., Stonar, nr. Sandwich, Kent.

For antibiotic pharmaceutical, veterinary and sanitary substances and preparations (5)

AUDIMYCIN, 910,589, by H. R. Napp, Ltd., Lancing, Sussex.

For veterinary substances, insecticides, larvicides, fungicides, herbicides and pesticides; preparations for killing weeds and destroying vermin (5)

ELECTRON, 911,760, by Shell International Petroleum Co., Ltd., London, S.E.1.

For herbal preparations and substances, all for medical or curative purposes (5)

HYPOMINE, 912,191, by Carter Bros., Shipley, Yorks.

For medicinal and pharmaceutical preparations and substances, all for human use and containing amino acids (5)

AMINOVITE, 912,167, by Britanol, Ltd., Horsforth, Leeds.

PATENTS

COMPLETE SPECIFICATIONS ACCEPTED

From the "Official Journal (Patents)," February 28

Antigen preparation and vaccine, Merck & Co., Inc. 1,108,906.

Mutation of antibiotic-producing strains of streptomycetes. Chinoïn Gyo'gyszeres Vegyeszeti Termekék Gyara RT. 1,108,923.

Process for the manufacture of BCG vaccines. CIBA, Ltd. 1,108,956.

Device for controlling the desire to smoke tobacco. J. Laumon. 1,108,966.

Lincosamine derivatives. Upjohn Co. 1,109,141.

Typhoid and paratyphoid vaccines. National Research Development Corporation. 1,109,179.

Acovenoside A derivatives. C. F. Boehringer & Soehne G.m.b.H. 1,109,406.

Dispensing apparatus for use in encapsulating powders. M. K. Mehta. 1,109,407.

Polymeric coating of aspirin. Minister of Technology. 1,109,425.

Vitamin compositions and a process for the

manufacture thereof. F. Hoffman-La Roche & Co., A.G. 1,109,186.

Aerosol producing apparatus. Hycopharm S de Fabrication et de Distribution de Produits d'Hygiene, Cosmétiques et Pharmaceutiques, S.A. 1,109,218.

Pyridoxine derivative, process for its preparation and therapeutic composition containing same. Laboratoires Houde. 1,109,539.

Antibiotic asperlin and the production thereof. Upjohn Co. 1,109,563.

Production of steroid compounds. G. Searle & Co. 1,109,626.

Derivatives of rifamycin SV. Lepetit, S.p.A. 1,109,631.

Therapeutic compositions. Warner Lambert Pharmaceutical Co. 1,109,716.

Process for purifying B pertussis antigen containing material. Merck & Co., 1,109,742.

British patent specifications relating to above will be obtainable (price 4s. 6d. ea) from the Patents Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, London, W.C. from April 10, 1968.

From the "Official Journal (Patents)," March 6

Method relating to the automatic clearance of goods purchased in shops and the like. Zellweger, Ltd., Uster Factories for Apparatus and Machines. 1,109,770.

Apparatus for sampling aerosols. Soc. Siecom. 1,109,777.

5 α -androstanolone derivatives and a process for their manufacture. Schering, A.G. 1,109,800.

Complex of theophylline and soluble saccharose process for its preparation and therapeutic composition comprising same. Revlon, Inc. 1,109,964.

Derivatives of mitomycin C. Kyowa Hakko Kogyo Co., Ltd. 1,110,035.

7-substituted mitomycin A. Kyowa Hakko Kogyo Co., Ltd. 1,110,036.

Pharmaceutical anti-inflammatory composition. J. R. Geigy, A.G. 1,110,086.

Cyano steroid derivatives. Soc. Farmaceutica Italiana. 1,110,090.

Method for reducing or preventing foam in liquid media. Dow Corning Corporation. 1,110,207.

Cosmetic preparation. Chas. Pfizer & Co., Inc. 1,110,240.

Preparations for the treatment of udders of dairy animals. Farbwerke Hoechst, A.G. 1,110,329.

Process for preparing a gellable colloidal cellulose sulphate and product. Kelco Co. 1,110,335.

Rutin derivatives. Rhein-Pharma Arzneimittel G.m.b.H. 1,110,387.

Ephedrine composition. Mead Johnson & Co. 1,110,397.

Production of collagen products. Johnson & Johnson. 1,110,503.

Preservative for human and animal eyes. Kuwahara. 1,110,576.

British patent specifications relating to above will be obtainable (price 4s. 6d. ea) from the Patents Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, London, W.C. from April 18.

From the "Official Journal (Patents)," March 13

Fungicidal compositions. Sankyo Co., Ltd. and Dainippon Ink and Chemicals, Inc. 1,110,615.

Safety razors. H.B. Engineer. 1,110,621.

Electrically operated dry shaver. Sunbeam Corporation. 1,110,631.

Process for the production of ferruginous compound for injection. Risai, K.K. 1,110,637.

Piperidine derivative. Soc. Farmaceutica Italiana. 1,110,637.

Urea derivatives. Farbenfabriken Bayer, A.G. 1,110,644.

Benzene-sulphonyl-semi-carbazides. Boehringer & Soehne, G.m.b.H. 1,110,645.

4-phenoxy-2-alkenoic acids and derivatives thereof. Merck & Co., Inc. 1,110,678.

British patent specifications relating to above will be obtainable (price 4s. 6d. ea) from the Patents Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, London, W.C. from April 24, 1968.

WORLD TRADE

Caustic Soda Production in India.—India has attained self-sufficiency in caustic soda production, according to report by the joint committee for the alkali industry, which has suggested an export scheme for surpluses in the coming years.

E.F.T.A. To Speed Tariff Cuts.—The eight partners in the European Free Trade Association have agreed to speed up their Kennedy Round tariff cuts if the European Economic Community does the same. If the proposal goes into force, all the cuts negotiated at Geneva a year ago will be enforced from the beginning of 1969, instead of by stages until mid-1972. Japan may also be prepared to advance the dates of tariff cuts if the U.S. gives up the threatened surcharge of 5 per cent. on imports.

Anglo-Hungarian Trade.—A trade arrangement between the United Kingdom and Hungary was signed in London on February 28, replacing the arrangement which expired at the end of 1967. The new arrangement will run until December 31, 1972. The two governments have also agreed detailed provisions for Anglo-Hungarian trade in 1968. No changes have been made in the list of goods that may be imported under world open general licence or that may be imported freely from Hungary under open individual licence, but increases have been agreed for a number of goods still covered by United Kingdom import quotas. Quota increases have also been agreed for United Kingdom exports to Hungary and certain consumer goods.

An Essential Oil Association.—An agricultural association of growers of lavender and lavandin was formed recently in France. Known as the *Calav de Haute Provence* it combines the main four co-operatives situated at Taulignan, Mevouillon, La Motte Balancon in the Drome area and in the Vaucluse area, comprising, in all, some 800 growers. Taking into account the number of members and the annual lavender and lavandin production, it will currently control some 50 per cent. of the lavender market, 35 per cent. of the lavandin and 70 per cent. of the dry sage market of which approximately 50 per cent. will go for export used on present commercial connections. Mr. R. Bontoux has been appointed the first director general of *Calav* and will be personally responsible for the commercial side. Chas. Emmermann & Co., Ltd., for some years agents for Bontoux Freres, will be agents in the United Kingdom for *Calav*.

NEW COMPANIES

Private Company. R.O.=Registered Office.
GODDARD OVERSEAS, LTD. (P.C.).—Registered February. Capital £200,000. To carry on the business of manufacturing, wholesale and retail chemists, etc.

HOUSE OF TOMAX, LTD. (P.C.).—Capital £1,000. To carry on the business of manufacturers of and dealers in patent pharmaceutical, medicinal and medicated preparations. Directors: Thomas Wasserman and Max C. Berfield, 35 Cotterill Road, Surbiton, Surrey. Directors, Elmdean, Ltd.).

CONTEMPORARY THEMES

Subjects of contributions in current medical and technical publications.

SODIUM METHICILLIN INJECTION. Effect of freezing on the stability of. *Amer. J. hosp. Pharm.*, January 1968.

PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY IN INDIA. Achievements and difficulties of. *Eastern Pharm.*, December, 1967.

PHARMACEUTICAL STUDY OF MUCILAGINOUS EXTRACT OF SAFED MUSLI. *Indian J. Pharm.*, January 1968.

DIPHThERIA TOXIN. New form of. *Nature*, March 16.

NOR2 CHLORPROMAZINE SULPHOXIDE AND 3,4-DIMETHOXYPHENETHYLAMINE. *Nature*, March 16.

VERY LARGE DOSES OF PENICILLIN G. Effects of, given orally to rats. *Nature*, March 16.

ZOONOSSES. The natural history of. *Vet. Rec.*, March 16.

TREATMENT OF RINGWORM IN CATTLE: Death following the use of a mixture of creosote and tractor vaporising oil. *Vet. Rec.*, March 16.

AIRWAYS OBSTRUCTION before and after isoprenaline, histamine, and prednisolone in patients with chronic obstructive bronchitis. *Lancet*, March 16.

EFFECT OF GLUTEN-FREE DIET on dermatological, intestinal, and haematological manifestations of dermatitis herpetiformis. *Lancet*, March 16.

RELATION OF ABNORMAL FOLATE METABOLISM to neuropathy developing during anticonvulsant drug therapy. *Lancet*, March 16.

TOPICAL TRIAMCINOLONE ACETONIDE in recurrent aphthous stomatitis. *Lancet*, March 16.

SALICYLATE INGESTION and idiopathic hair loss. *Lancet*, March 16.

A PORTABLE INCUBATOR for long-distance transport of cultures. *Lancet*, March 16.

LONG-TERM CORTICOSTEROID TREATMENT of asthma. *Brit. med. J.*, March 16.

HEALTH EXPENDITURE. An international study of. *W.H.O. Chron.*, March 1968.

NAMES for pharmaceutical preparations. *W.H.O. Chron.*, March 1968.

COMING EVENTS

Items for inclusion under this heading should be sent in time to reach the Editor not later than first post on Wednesday of the week of insertion.

Sunday, March 24

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN. Rutherford College, University of Kent, Canterbury, at 10.30 a.m. East Kent regional meeting.

Monday, March 25

IMPO 68 (Photographic Importers' Association travelling exhibition), George-a-Clark town hall, Paisley, Glasgow. Until March 26.

OIL AND COLOUR CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION TECHNICAL EXHIBITION, Alexandra Palace, London, N.22. Until March 29.

Tuesday, March 26

IPSWICH AND SUFFOLK BRANCH, PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY, Civic College, Rope Walk, Ipswich, at 7.30 p.m. Dr. M. A. Rugg Gunn (medical trials division, May & Baker, Ltd.) on "Anti-rheumatic and Anti-inflammatory Drugs." (Lecture course.)

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE BRANCH, PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY, Medical institute, Hartshill, Stoke-on-Trent, at 7.45 p.m. Film evening. (Change of date.)

READING BRANCH, PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY, Southcote hotel, Reading, at 8 p.m. Professor A. H. Beckett on "Route from Witch Doctor to Modern Drugs."

WEST HERTFORDSHIRE BRANCH, PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY, Reading room, High Street, Kings Langley, at 8 p.m. "Psychiatric Drugs — Tranquillisers and Anti-depressants, etc." (Lecture course.)

WOKING BRANCH, PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY, Medical centre, St. Peter's Hospital, Chertsey, at 8 p.m. Annual meeting followed by Miss M. A. Barr (a member of Council) on "Pharmaceutical Affairs."

Wednesday, March 27

EASTBOURNE BRANCH, PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY, Queens hotel, Eastbourne, at 7 p.m. Annual dinner and dance.

EDINBURGH CHEMISTS' GOLF CLUB, Duddingston golf club, Duddingston, Edinburgh, 15, at 1.30 p.m. Play for Eric Knott and P. G. trophies. (Club championship qualifying outing.)

GRIMSBY BRANCH, PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY, Adelaide lounge, Yarborough hotel, Grimsby, at 7.45 p.m. Mr. C. C. Stevens (a member of Council) on "Monopolies and Price Maintenance."

WARRINGTON BRANCH, PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY, Feathers hotel, Bridge Street, Warrington, at 8 p.m. Annual meeting.

Thursday, March 28

BRISTOL BRANCH, PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY, Dyham Lodge, 16 Clifton Park, Bristol, 8,

at 7.30 p.m. Mr. C. C. Stevens (a member of Council) on "Present-day Trends and Legislation."

EAST METROPOLITAN BRANCH, PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY AND WEST HAM ASSOCIATION OF PHARMACISTS. Visit to Yardley of London, Ltd., Miles Gray Road, Basildon, Essex, at 2.15 p.m. (Numbers restricted to thirty-five.)

HARROGATE BRANCH, PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY, AND LEEDS BRANCH, NATIONAL PHARMACEUTICAL UNION, St. George hotel, Harrogate at 8 p.m. Mr. P. Knocker (plastics group marketing manager, Metal Box Co., Ltd.) on "Modern Packaging."

LANCASTER, MORECAMBE AND WESTMORLAND BRANCH, PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY, Craig-y-Don hotel, Morecambe, at 8 p.m. Annual meeting.

RHYL BRANCH, PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY, Westminster hotel, Rhyl, at 7.30 p.m. Annual dinner.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BRANCH, PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY, Overcliff hotel, Manor Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, at 8 p.m. Mr. A. R. Brodie on "3D Photography" (illustrated).

YORKSHIRE BRANCH, GUILD OF PUBLIC PHARMACISTS, General Infirmary, Leeds, at 7 p.m. Mr. B. Lynn (Beecham Research Laboratories) on "Some Aspects of the Chemistry and Pharmacy of the Newer Penicillins."

Friday, March 29

BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH, PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY, AND BOURNEMOUTH MEDICAL SOCIETY, Medical centre, Boscombe, at 7.45 p.m. Supper, followed at 9 p.m. by Mr. J. H. Lavender (curator, Red House museum, Christchurch) on "Some Local History with a Pharmaceutical Flavour."

BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF PHARMACY, Welsh School of Pharmacy, University of Wales, Institute of Science and Technology, Cathays Park, Cardiff. Conference. Until March 31.

FIFE BRANCH, PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY, Station hotel, Kirkcaldy, at 8 p.m. Informal dance.

HOUNSLOW BRANCH, PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY, Excelsior hotel, London Airport, at 7.30 p.m. Dinner and dance.

Advance Information

INTERNATIONAL PACKAGING EXHIBITION, Palais de la Defense, Paris, France, November 24-30.

Courses and Conferences

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON DISTILLATION, Brighton, Sussex, September 8-10, 1969. Further information from the Institution of Chemical Engineers, 16 Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1.

Prescribers' Press

What doctors are reading about developments in drugs and treatments

DURING investigations on patients with unexplained hair loss, workers at the University of Pennsylvania school of medicine, U.S.A., discovered that nine out of twelve were consistently taking aspirin or salicylates. In the process of measuring urinary excretion of coproporphyrin the workers noted discrepancies between levels found by different methods, and that led to the discovery of a "blue spot." The spot was eventually characterised as being caused by *o*-hydroxyhippuric acid (major metabolite and excretory product of salicylate). The spot could be made to disappear if salicylates were forbidden to the patients and could be induced in previously normal urine if clinical doses were given to controls. Only two of eleven patients with patterned hereditary hair loss showed the spot and only three of twenty-one controls with no hair loss. The authors consider whether the unexpected "aspirin addiction" might reflect underlying chronic disease in patients with unexplained hair loss, cause gastrointestinal bleeding leading to anaemia (a known cause of hair loss), or act directly by interfering with cellular activity necessary for hair production (*Lancet*, March 16, p. 567).

No evidence that steroid therapy loses its effect with the progress of time could be found by workers at King's College Hospital, London, from a study of 170 patients with severe bronchial asthma. The patients were studied for from two to thirteen years. Side effects were found to be related more to the average dose of steroid than to the length of treatment. Treatment reduced the number of attacks of status asthmaticus but did not alter the need for urgent treatment when attacks developed. Severe attacks were particularly apt to follow "weaning" the patient from long-term treatment. Main drugs used were prednisone and prednisolone (*B.M.J.*, March 16, p. 661).

Most patients in a double-blind trial of triamcinolone acetonide by workers at Birmingham University showed only

relatively slight improvement in their ulcer experience. For that reason they suggest that the drug be prescribed for all patients with recurrent aphthous ulceration, though they think it has a place in short courses of treatment for

patients having a particularly severe crop of ulcers. A preparation of the drug in Orabase was generally found more effective than an aqueous preparation, but the difference was on slight (*Lancet*, March 16, p. 565).

PRINT AND PUBLICITY

Fashion magazine, first number of which appeared on March 15, has been planned to make fashion possible for the many women (the "elder teens," the "out" people) who feel they have been neglected recently. Besides showing the clothes suited to such women it deals also with cosmetics, cookery, art, travel, and education. The 164-p. first issue (page size 13½ x 10½ in.) reviews cosmetics in articles "Beauty Boutique" and "Living in the Face Age" and carries advertisements for Chanel, Coty, Cutex, Cyclax, Dorothy Gray, Estee Lauder, Eylure, Fenjal, Fidji, Helena Rubinstein, Lancome, Lenthéric, Max Factor, Noxzema, Polycolor, Revlon and Worth perfumery or cosmetic products.

PRESS ADVERTISING

BICKIEPEGS, LTD., Tewin Road, Welwyn Garden City, Herts: Bickiepegs and Bickie-mol. In *Woman*, April 6.

FRENCH & SCOTT, LTD., 1a Downs Park Road, London, E.8: French Herb shampoo: In *Daily Express*.

MAX FACTOR, HOLLYWOOD AND LONDON (SALES) LTD., 16 Old Bond Street, London, W.1: Max Factor skin care preparations. In *Good Housekeeping*, *She*, *Vanity Fair*, *Woman & Home*, *Fashion*, *Flair*, *Nova*, *Vogue*, *Woman's Home Journal*, *Woman's Realm*,

and *Living*. Max Factor eye make-up. *Fashion*, *Woman*, *She*, *Woman's Own*, *Vogue*, *Vanity Fair*, *Honey*, *Nineteen*, *Pet*, *coat*, *Rave*, *Intro*, *Weekend*, *Nova*, *Fla*

MAVALA

diamond hard nails



SHOWING FOUR MONTHS' SUPPLY. Swiss-made Mavala nail-hardener is issued in "bubble" pack containing enough for four months' use. So distributors are not Vestric, Ltd., Runcorn, Cheshire, and branches. Picture is of showcard illustrating the pack. DISPLAY AN COLOUR CHART: new counter display unit available from Clairol, Ltd., Stamford House, Station Road, Langley, Bucks. doubles as a color chart for the two shades in the series. The unit holds 1 packs.

COMMERCIAL TELEVISION

The information given in the table is of number of appearances and total screen time in seconds. Thus 7/105 means that the advertiser's announcement will, during the week covered, be screened seven times and for a total of 105 seconds.

Period—March 31-April 6

PRODUCT	London	Midland	North	Scotland	Wales & West	South	North-east	Anglia	Ulster	Westward	Border	Grampian	Eireann	Channel Is.
Anne French ...	2/60	1/30	1/30	—	1/30	1/30	—	1/30	7/49	—	—	—	—	—
Anadin ...	1/30	1/30	2/60	2/70	3/90	1/30	2/60	2/60	2/60	1/30	2/60	2/60	—	2/60
Askit powders ...	—	—	—	5/51	—	—	—	—	—	—	3/29	2/14	—	—
Clearasil ...	3/30	3/30	3/30	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dentu-creme ...	3/90	—	—	2/60	2/60	3/90	2/60	3/90	2/60	2/60	2/60	2/60	—	1/30
Lady Jayne heat rollers ...	—	3/90	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Moorland indigestion tablets ...	1/15	—	2/30	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ostermilk and Farex ...	—	1/30	—	1/30	1/30	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poli-grip ...	—	2/60	2/60	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Simpkin's Juices ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trufood baby milk ...	—	3/90	3/90	—	—	3/90	3/90	—	—	—	—	—	—	—